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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
13 April 2006-23 May 2007

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2007

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APETIT	Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARTNeT	Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EPOC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
GDP	gross domestic product
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICST	information, communication and space technology
ICT	information and communication technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
R and D	research and development
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
UNAPCAEM	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless specified otherwise.
The term "billion" signifies a thousand million.

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 13 April 2006 to 23 May 2007, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth plenary meeting of its sixty-third session on 23 May 2007.

Chapter I

ISSUES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. At its sixty-third session, ESCAP adopted 10 resolutions and 1 decision, as listed below, which are brought to the attention of the Council.[1]

A. Resolutions

63/1 Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

63/2 Recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission

63/3 Review of the conference structure of the Commission

63/4 Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region

63/5 Midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

63/6 Implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

63/7 International migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

63/8 Sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific

63/9 Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011)

63/10 Review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management

B. Decisions

63/1 Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for ICST-enabled Disaster Management (APIDM) until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

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[1] For the text, see chap. IV.

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission is contained in document E/ESCAP/63/5.

4. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

(a) Committee on Poverty Reduction, third session;

(b) Committee on Managing Globalization, third session (part I);

(c) Committee on Managing Globalization, third session (part II);

(d) Committee on Emerging Social Issues, third session;

(e) Ministerial Conference on Transport;

(f) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, eighth session.

5. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II to the present report. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

6. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the reporting period 2006/2007 are given in annex IV to the present report.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

7. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The sixty-third session of the Commission was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007. The session comprised two segments. The senior officials' meeting was held from 17 to 19 May 2007 and the ministerial meeting from 21 to 23 May 2007.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Members
Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members
Macao, China
New Caledonia

10. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure,[2] representatives of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany and South Africa attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

11. The session was attended by representatives of the following United Nations Secretariat units: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Regional Commissions New York Office.

12. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Fund for Women and United Nations Development Programme.

13. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Health Organization.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Development Bank, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, Economic Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Development Bank, Eurasian Economic Community, International Organization for Migration, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Typhoon Committee Secretariat.

15. Representatives of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and International Union of Railways also attended.

16. The list of participants is given in document E/ESCAP/63/INF/3.

17. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Marat Tazhin (Kazakhstan) Chairperson.

18. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons:

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Jalil Shams (Afghanistan)
H.E. Mr. A.B. Mirza Azizul Islam (Bangladesh)
H.E. Mr. Yeshey Dorji (Bhutan)
H.E. Mr. Khy Tainglim (Cambodia)
H.E. Mr. Li Hui (China)
H.E. Mr. Ashwani Kumar (India)
H.E. Mr. Ali Askari (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Mr. Sanjar Mukambetov (Kyrgyzstan)
H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Datuk Mr. Sulaiman Bin Mahbob (Malaysia)
Hon. Hamdun Abdulla Hameed (Maldives)
H.E. Colonel Thuyain Zaw (Myanmar)
Hon. Mr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel (Nepal)
H.E. Mr. Edsel Custodio (Philippines)
H.E. Mr. Cho Jung-Pyo (Republic of Korea)
H.E. Mr. Aleksander V. Yakovenko (Russian Federation)
H.E. Mr. Zarifi Hamrokhon (Tajikistan)
H.E. Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri (Thailand)
Hon. Mr. Lotoala Metia (Tuvalu)
Hon. Nipake Edward Natapei (Vanuatu)
H.E. Mr. Dao Viet Trung (Viet Nam)

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[2] See annex VI.

19. The senior officials' meeting was divided into three Committees of the Whole. The following officers were elected:

(a) Committee of the Whole I:

Chairperson:

Mr. Nasir Ahmad Andisha (Afghanistan)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Yong-Il Lee (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Sonam Tobgay (Bhutan)

(b) Committee of the Whole II:

Chairperson:

Mr. Mojtaba Khalesi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed (Maldives)
Mr. Fredrick Hosea (Vanuatu)

(c) Committee of the Whole III:

Chairperson:

Mr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya (Nepal)

Vice-Chairpersons:

H.E. Mr. Yaichil Batsuuri (Mongolia)
H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Yusuf (Indonesia)

20. The Commission also constituted the Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Latha Reddy (India), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Umardin Hj. Abdul Mutalib (Malaysia) was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

21. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
    - (a) Opening addresses;
    - (b) Election of officers;
    - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region.
3. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
    - (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments;
    - (b) Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;
    - (c) Work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission.
4. Consideration of legislative body and intergovernmental meeting reports and implementation of selected Commission resolutions, including resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration:
    - (a) Emerging social issues;
    - (b) Poverty reduction;
    - (c) Managing globalization;
    - (d) Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration.
5. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
6. ESCAP reform:
    - (a) Consideration of the external evaluation of ESCAP in the context of overall United Nations reform: key findings and proposals for action;
    - (b) Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: final review of the revised conference structure.
7. Management issues:
    - (a) Draft programme of work for the period 2008-2009;
    - (b) Work of the regional institutions.
8. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
9. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
10. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies.
11. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

22. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the Commission for the sixty-second session, H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha (Lao People's Democratic Republic). A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read out by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The Executive Secretary

of ESCAP delivered a statement. H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered the inaugural address.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

23. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that over the past six decades ESCAP had worked closely with its member States to improve the well-being of people throughout the Asian and Pacific region. Sessions of the Commission provided a unique forum in which all countries of the region could come together to discuss issues of common concern, build consensus on the way forward and foster collaboration in tackling the region's challenges.

24. The important issue of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region would be discussed at the current session; 2007 marked the midpoint in efforts to fulfil those Goals. Because two thirds of the world's population lived in Asia and the Pacific, the level of progress achieved in the region would be a critical factor in determining whether global efforts to reach the Goals would succeed or fail.

25. It was encouraging that, in recent decades, the countries of Asia and the Pacific had seen a record number of people lifted out of poverty. Still, over 600 million fellow human beings who had not benefited from the region's economic gains continued to face a daily struggle to survive. The need to redouble efforts was abundantly clear. It was hoped that the Commission's deliberations would provide fresh impetus to collective actions to combat extreme poverty.

26. There were many other challenges confronting the region. Rapid economic growth had come at a high environmental price. It was gratifying that ESCAP, by promoting a "green growth" model, was trying to change fundamentally the way growth was defined in order to ensure a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach.

27. The latest *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*[3] rightly focused on another major social problem -- gender discrimination. By putting an estimate on the economic costs of such practices, the *Survey* served to highlight the fact that all were losers, in more than one way, when half of humanity was deprived of its basic rights.

28. The ESCAP region had achieved a great deal and yet much remained to be completed. The Secretary-General conveyed his best wishes for a productive and successful session, which marked the first time that a session of the Commission was being held in Central Asia.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

29. The Executive Secretary extended a warm welcome to all those attending the sixty-third session of the Commission, which also commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of its founding. The present session in Kazakhstan marked the first time that the Commission was meeting in Central Asia, which was located at the crossroads of the world's most ancient civilizations and trade routes.

30. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation to H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the anniversary session of the Commission in Almaty.

31. The Executive Secretary also expressed sincere gratitude to the people and the Government of Kazakhstan for their gracious hospitality and the excellent arrangements that had been made for the session. The cooperation and encouragement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Marat Tazhin, and his team in the preparatory process was deeply valued.

32. Kazakhstan had made great strides in ensuring rapid economic growth and building a completely new economic system with strengthened social institutions. President Nazarbayev's recent annual address "New Kazakhstan in a new world", which had set out the strategy for the development of Kazakhstan over the next decade, had been impressive. The goal of turning Kazakhstan into a "regional locomotive" of economic development and a successful player in the regional cooperation and integration into the economies of Asia and the Pacific, was encouraging.

33. The Executive Secretary further stated that the presence of President Nazarbayev at the session reaffirmed the commitment of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, in particular to ESCAP, which was the most representative intergovernmental forum for the Asian and Pacific region. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) had been initiated by President Nazarbayev, along with the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, in Tashkent in 1998. Later, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan had joined SPECA, which would celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2008. Economic development opportunities for SPECA member countries could be enlarged by strengthening links with the economic dynamism and high growth of Asia and the Pacific.

34. The Executive Secretary noted that the region was home to 60 per cent of the world's people. In the past two decades, the region had made great progress on both the social and economic fronts. However, that progress masked wide disparities and stark contrasts. While hundreds of millions of people had been lifted out of poverty, one out of every three persons lived in extreme poverty in the region. In particular, the improvement of health was crucial for tackling poverty. Half the world's maternal deaths still occurred in the region. Moreover, the region as a whole was off-track in relation to reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, the prevalence of which was still on the rise.

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[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.F.4.

35. The current year marked the midpoint in the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; the target year for achieving the Goals was 2015.

36. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the main areas of discussion at the ministerial meeting would be a panel session on "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region" and a ministerial round table on "Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific". The panel discussion would consider a regional road map on achieving the Goals.

Inaugural address by the President of Kazakhstan

37. The President conveyed his wholehearted congratulations on the opening of the ministerial meeting of the sixty-third session of the Commission.

38. The President noted that the activities of ESCAP, since its foundation, had been aimed at creating open and equal opportunities for cooperation among member States in accelerating measures to eliminate social and economic inequality. It could be said with confidence that in the preceding 60 years great work had been accomplished to achieve that goal.

39. The President informed the Commission that economic reforms had given the countries of the Asian and Pacific region a chance to become the principal engine of wide-scale economic development. The economic growth of those countries in 2006 reached 8 per cent, the highest growth rate in the world. Economic growth needed to be translated into measures to solve emerging social problems and into effective implementation of the ESCAP social strategy in the context of globalization.

40. Owing to the close interdependence of countries in the region, it was especially important to build partnerships and work towards integration at the regional and subregional levels. However, economic growth did not always help to solve old problems, but often generated new ones.

41. High economic activity increasingly led to consequences for industrial production and that required urgent action in terms of green growth, since environmental stress would delay potential economic growth.

42. The President expressed the view that rapid economic development in many cases had led to social stratification and widened the income gap between the rich and the poor, which triggered dissatisfaction among the masses and created conditions for new challenges and threats. The Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome were aimed at helping countries to solve those problems consistently and strictly.

43. In relation to the achievement of those goals in the Asian and Pacific region, there had been success in eliminating abject poverty and hunger in many least developed and developing countries. However, more needed to be done. In particular, priority needed to be given to providing primary health care and dealing with epidemics, maternal and child mortality, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as HIV/AIDS, which today was one of the main causes of death of working-age people. United Nations experts also justly focused on the need for gender equality in the Asian and Pacific region. The limited access of women to employment alone led to losses ranging from $42 billion to $47 billion in the countries of the region. The losses resulting from the limited access of women to professional education ranged from $16 billion to $30 billion annually.

44. The President noted that ensuring stability and peace in the vast territories of Asia and the Pacific was an important precondition for achieving sustainable economic growth. In that context, the President highlighted the important role of ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in dealing with contemporary challenges and threats.

45. The President expressed the view that the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia also had very good potential. The initiative by Kazakhstan in the General Assembly 15 years before to convene that Conference was being successfully implemented. Participating in its activities as members were 18 States representing 90 per cent of the territory of Asia and a population of 3 billion people. Participating in the Conference as observers were nine other countries and international organizations. Two recent summits of the Conference demonstrated that it was an important mechanism for ensuring security on the Asian continent.

46. The President also mentioned several other initiatives taken by Kazakhstan to foster interregional cooperation and security, including interreligious dialogue aimed at strengthening peace.

47. Over the last seven years, the annual economic growth rates of Kazakhstan had averaged 10 per cent. It had been estimated that GDP would be twofold higher in 2008 compared with 2000 and threefold higher by 2015. GDP per capita was expected to grow to $6,700 in 2007; by contrast, GDP per capita in 1993 was below $700.

48. The President informed the Commission that Kazakhstan was a very dynamic country and aspired to join the 50 most competitive and dynamic economies of the world. To that end, the country had implemented industrial and innovative programmes to diversify its economy, increase the production of value added goods and services and lay the foundation for a high-technology service economy; in 2006 it had launched its first communications satellite.

49. The President informed the Commission about steps to modernize the political system of Kazakhstan. In the social area, high priority was accorded to health-care issues, with about $1.8 billion having been allocated for that purpose in 2006. Pensions had

increased, as well as allowances for children and families. Emphasis was being given to education and gender equality. Annual social and humanitarian expenditures from the State budget had grown more than threefold since 2001 and would reach $6.2 billion in 2007.

50. The President expressed the view that the acceptance by member States of the offer of Kazakhstan to host the annual session of the Commission in Almaty in the year when the Commission was celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of its foundation was a great honour for the country. It also testified to the willingness of ESCAP to direct its attention to Central Asia.

51. The dynamic development of Central Asia was strategically important in terms of geopolitics and the global energy market, security and stability in a major part of Eurasia. The abundance of natural resources in Central Asia had aroused the interest of many States.

52. The President noted that the integration of Central Asian States was an objective and natural process based on the national interests of each country. Central Asian States had a common history, cultural identity, complementarities of their economies, extensive transport infrastructure and common borders. Kazakhstan was currently taking steps to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to other States in the subregion, such as Afghanistan. Kazakhstan highly appreciated the role of ESCAP in implementing SPECA.

53. The President was pleased that the issue of strengthening cooperation through SPECA had been given priority in the agenda of the sixty-third session of the Commission and of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum.

54. A special feature of Central Asian countries was their landlocked geographical location. Therefore, the President urged that priority be given to the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action[4] for landlocked developing countries. The President also noted that interregional cooperation needed to be further developed through a dialogue between Central Asia and ASEAN. Kazakhstan, as a transit country between Europe and Asia, was prepared for the widest possible cooperation with partners in the Asian and Pacific region.

55. In conclusion, the President pointed out that Central Asian countries had inherited grave environmental problems from the past, such as the effects of nuclear explosions and the catastrophic state of the Aral Sea. The consequences of such problems were high rates of mortality and morbidity. Those problems had recently been exacerbated by the need to deal with new challenges and threats, such as international terrorism and extremism, the illegal drug trade and illegal migration. Dealing with those problems also called for constructive regional cooperation.

56. The President emphasized that the issues to be discussed at the current session of the Commission were of tremendous importance for the States of Central Asia. He expressed confidence that the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session would point the way to solutions to urgent problems in the subregion.

Agenda item 2
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region

57. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region: regional road map to 2015" (E/ESCAP/63/2).

58. The Commission commended the secretariat for developing and presenting a draft regional road map, as mandated by the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and Pacific: The Way Forward 2015,[5] and Commission resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region.

59. The majority of delegations endorsed the proposed regional road map, as contained in document E/ESCAP/63/2. They observed that the document provided a unique opportunity for all countries to coordinate and redouble their efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

60. The Commission was informed of several important policy measures taken by member countries in accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For example, one delegation stated that its parliament had adopted a resolution in April 2005 endorsing its national millennium development goals, tailored to addressing the special needs of the country. Its country had also initiated and integrated another goal, "Strengthening human rights and fostering democratic governance", with the eight Millennium Development Goals. Another delegation reported that its country had begun national-level Millennium Development Goal activities in 2003, with materials pertaining to the Goals having been included in government and civil society workshops throughout the country. One delegation indicated that its country had initiated a plan to monitor its progress in achieving the Goals on an annual basis. Another delegation stated that its country had embarked on a five-year project, from 2006 to 2011, in cooperation with UNDP, to create synergies among the multiple stakeholders towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and had

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[4] Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

[5] A/60/313, annex.

initiated a multi-stakeholder consultation, including with its development partners. Another delegation reported that its country had already achieved a number of Millennium Development Goals, and had therefore been urged to start implementing "MDG Plus" strategies, which set even higher targets. Two delegations reported that their Governments had begun mainstreaming Millennium Development Goal policies and programmes in their national development strategies, which was one of the main aims of the proposed regional road map. Another delegation informed the Commission that, in an effort to localize the Millennium Development Goals at the district level, targets had been set at local levels. The Commission also noted with interest the adoption of some quick-impact measures aimed at reducing poverty and generating income as part of the efforts to achieve the Goals. Those included the provision of a monthly child allowance, free meals for elementary school children and increased pension benefits.

61. The Commission was informed of the importance of policies that promoted sustainable economic growth, greater openness to trade and investment, effective governance and equitable distribution of the benefits of growth for accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. One delegation considered ownership of the Goals by developing countries to be critical for their achievement.

62. Several delegations reported impressive gains in reaching the Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. Significant progress had been achieved in reducing child mortality, increasing school enrolment rates and generally improving the status of women. One of them reported that its country was on track to achieve all the Goals by 2015, but faced the challenges of internal regional disparity in their achievement.

63. Several delegations observed that the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals across the Asian and Pacific region, although impressive, revealed a contrasting picture, with some countries finding themselves in more advanced stages of achievement while others were still lagging far behind on all or most of the especially important goals. They therefore emphasized that there was an urgent need for fostering effective regional cooperation aimed at region-wide and timely achievement of the Goals by assisting the off-track countries. In that context, they strongly commended the proposed regional road map to 2015 as a platform for region-wide action by United Nations agencies. One delegation observed that poverty was most successfully addressed when there was a coherent strategy. Such a strategy consisted of better policy formulation and implementation as well as the provision of a legal framework that ensured the protection of the poor against unprecedented social risks and proper fulfilment of basic needs.

64. Several delegations expressed their appreciation to ESCAP, UNDP and ADB for preparing a series of regional reports and studies and organizing a variety of forums, conferences and seminars, and welcomed continued cooperation in that regard. They noted that the reports and studies had high advocacy value and were found to be particularly useful in identifying sectors and countries where increased efforts were needed in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Those activities had also given tangible impetus to the efforts of the ESCAP member countries at both the national and regional levels to build an expanded knowledge base and the capabilities needed to achieve the Goals in the region by 2015.

65. Several delegations urged ESCAP, UNDP and ADB to expand their regional tripartite partnership in support of the Millennium Development Goals by including other United Nations agencies, development financial institutions and subregional organizations and by working closely with stakeholders at the regional, subregional and national levels. Two delegations highlighted the need for continued attention to some key issues in building effective partnerships, as reflected in the draft regional road map, including needs assessment and costing, building multi-stakeholder partnership at the national level and fostering national ownership.

66. Several delegations emphasized that there was an urgent need to involve multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations in delivering health, education and financial services. Measures were also needed to improve the delivery mechanisms for achieving the Millennium Development Goals as were significantly increased investments in infrastructure, transport and communications, water and sanitation, health and education.

67. Two delegations expressed their concern that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States faced huge development challenges in reaching the Millennium Development Goal targets. Most of those countries were off-track and were not likely to achieve several of the Goals. Therefore, those vulnerable countries should be given priority attention. In that context, the delegations noted the importance of strengthening the productive capacity of enterprises for export purposes.

68. One delegation noted that statistical systems needed to be strengthened in the small island developing States and least developed countries. Several Millennium Development Goal indicators had outdated, unreliable or altogether missing data values, which hampered the analysis of development performance and the adoption of evidence-based policies. It called for ESCAP and its development partners to continue supporting the development of appropriate indicators.

69. One delegation noted that expertise, including the resources of the countries, should be shared with off-track countries, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The same delegation stressed that ESCAP and other United Nations agencies and regional institutions needed to provide the necessary means and measures to assist those countries of the

Asian and Pacific region to be on track in achieving the Goals.

70. One delegation requested that ESCAP undertake three studies which could be of significant value to the developing countries intent on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015: (a) a costing exercise to assess investment requirements and how much could be mobilized from domestic as well as external sources; (b) an assessment of the best practices in the region on efficient delivery systems; and (c) a study on how best to coordinate development assistance at the country level and avoid duplication and waste of resources. Another delegation requested that ESCAP and specialized United Nations agencies render support and technical assistance in building capacity for data collection and analysis, developing small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinance, and using geographical information systems in poverty reduction efforts.

71. In emphasizing the importance of disaster prevention, emergency relief and reconstruction, one delegation reaffirmed the commitment of its Government to provide ODA for the issues covered under the Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.[6]

72. The Commission noted the assistance provided by several donor countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Assistance had been provided in several areas, including agriculture and rural development, primary education, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environment, and water and sanitation. While noting that ODA to developing countries had been on a declining trend in the recent past, several delegations emphasized that improving aid effectiveness was critically important.

73. The representative of ADB observed that the development of the proposed regional road map was extremely timely as the region had only eight more years before reaching the 2015 deadline. He stressed that the regional road map, to create maximum impact, had to focus interventions on two priority areas in particular, namely reduction of massive deprivations of the poor and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by each individual country.

74. The representative of UNDP observed that the regional Millennium Development Goal partnership involving ESCAP, UNDP and ADB was unique and the first of its kind, and that UNDP was committed to that partnership. He stressed that the draft regional road map contained milestones for measuring progress in achieving the Goals in the region and that it required guidance from ESCAP members so that it could be implemented effectively.

75. The representative of UNIFEM emphasized the importance of addressing gender equality in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. She drew the attention of the Commission to the need for increased investments in empowering women, improving governance and accountability and partnership with civil society.

76. The Commission adopted resolution 63/4 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region.

Agenda item 3
Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

77. The Executive Secretary observed that, for the eighth consecutive year, developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region had grown faster than those in all other regions, at 7.9 per cent in 2006, up from 7.6 per cent in 2005. Developed economies in the region had expanded by a healthy 2.2 per cent in 2006. He noted that, with Asian and Pacific developing economies accounting for more than one third of global growth in 2006, the region was becoming the locomotive for such growth.

78. The region's developing economies were projected to grow at the rate of 7.4 per cent in 2007. The Executive Secretary noted that, as the international economic environment weakened, the momentum for growth would come from within the region. The continued expansion of China and India and the resurgent dynamism of Japan would contribute significantly to performance in 2007. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the region's impressive economic performance would be taking place against the backdrop of a riskier global environment. The slowing United States economy and a moderate decline in demand for electronics globally in 2007 could further dampen the region's prospects. He pointed out several other risks, ranging from an oil price shock, a disorderly unwinding of global imbalances and a reversal of the sustainability of the Japanese economic recovery, to an avian flu pandemic.

79. The Executive Secretary noted that it was important not to lose sight of the longer-term challenges of poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as well as addressing gender inequality, tackling health-related concerns, closing infrastructure gaps and promoting environmentally sustainable growth. He stressed that inequality and discrimination against women in labour markets and education alone had cost economies in Asia and the Pacific almost $80 billion per year.

80. The Executive Secretary expressed concern over the relatively slow progress that was being made by the region towards achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals. He pointed to deficiencies in infrastructure, human resources and

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[6] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

essential medicines within health systems as serious concerns. Reducing gender inequality, providing safe drinking water and improving sanitation would be crucial first steps in achieving those Goals. He noted that considerable fiscal space existed for countries in the region to increase investments in health, and that needed to be combined with more efficient use of existing resources.

81. Giving an account of the work of the secretariat in the preceding year, the Executive Secretary stated that, in line with the guidance of the Commission, the focus of the secretariat's work had ranged from normative and analytical work and national capacity-building to the provision of advisory services. The secretariat had also continued to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation. Special attention was paid in all its work to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Pacific island developing countries.

82. Several major achievements of the secretariat during 2006 were highlighted by the Executive Secretary. At the Ministerial Conference on Transport, member States had adopted the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. V) and signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.[7] In June 2006, ESCAP had established the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) at Incheon, Republic of Korea, and convened the first session of its Governing Council.[8] The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), which covered a region encompassing nearly half the world's population, had entered into force on 1 September 2006.

83. In concluding, the Executive Secretary noted that the overarching focus of the work of ESCAP in upcoming years would be on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the coming year, close attention would also be paid to identifying innovative regional financial cooperation arrangements for addressing infrastructure deficiencies in the region, increasing connectivity in Pacific island countries, integrating Asian trade and investment architecture by expanding the membership of APTA, promoting gender mainstreaming and pursuing further work in the important area of health-care financing. The Executive Secretary underscored that, in all its work, the secretariat would focus on areas that could be effectively addressed through regional cooperation, and that it would place greater attention on enhancing its analytical and normative functions complemented by regional technical cooperation activities.

Sub-item (a)
Implications of recent economic and social developments

84. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues" (E/ESCAP/63/3). The document provided the Commission with an opportunity to take stock of the current economic and social situation prevailing in the region and to look for possible ways to address the emerging challenges in the region.

85. The Commission welcomed the fact that developing economies in Asia and the Pacific had recorded impressive economic performance in 2006. The remarkable economic growth in the region was being driven by the continuing buoyancy of external demand, robust intraregional trade and stronger domestic demand in several economies. It noted that the region's robust performance was set against the backdrop of a riskier global environment, characterized by high oil prices, widening global imbalances and uncertainty in financial markets. In view of the current economic environment, several delegations emphasized that there was a need to maintain macroeconomic stability by pursuing prudent monetary and fiscal policies and deeper financial-sector reforms. In that regard, one delegation called for the creation of a regional mechanism for the surveillance of economic and financial-sector vulnerability, with assistance from the ESCAP secretariat.

86. Despite the impressive economic growth that was occurring in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission observed that the ESCAP region was still home to about two thirds of the world's poor. Several delegations noted with concern the widening income inequality in the region and observed that economic growth would not translate automatically into reductions in poverty. Overcoming poverty required a comprehensive set of social and economic policies and programmes that were inclusive and equitable. One delegation requested that the ESCAP secretariat undertake an analytical study to examine the forces driving inequitable growth and highlight possible policy measures to address it.

87. Several delegations observed that ending gender discrimination would result in economic prosperity, as women would be able to fully become driving forces of economic growth. It was emphasized that gender inequality in the areas of economic participation, education, health and empowerment needed to be rectified. Two delegations stressed that it was important to continue to integrate gender issues into national development policies, strategies and programmes.

88. Several other areas were underscored as important in accelerating socio-economic development and poverty reduction in the region. Several delegations noted that environmental degradation had arisen from accelerated economic growth. They emphasized the need for adopting approaches that could foster economic growth and, in particular, the industrialization

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[7] Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

[8] In accordance with paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005.

process, using fewer resources and minimizing pollution. In that regard, one delegation called for the green-growth initiative of ESCAP to be highlighted as an important impetus for such development. While noting the importance of sustainable tourism, one delegation stated that efforts needed to be directed at enhancing the development of innovative tourism products and services, encouraging and facilitating domestic tourism and intensifying marketing and promotion activities.

89. The Commission noted that the process of globalization had not diminished the need for regional cooperation. It emphasized that deepening regional cooperation was particularly important in confronting the challenges of globalization and addressing issues that one country on its own could not solve single-handedly. It further noted that regional cooperation had been particularly effective in the areas of trade, transport, information and communication technology and energy. Several delegations emphasized that deeper regional cooperation would help in addressing financial crises, infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, research on plant and genetic resources and biotechnology, and other cross-border issues. Two delegations noted that SPECA constituted an important area of cooperation between the Central Asian States, particularly in the area of transport.

90. Several delegations observed that their countries had not reaped the benefits of membership in various regional trade agreements and in WTO. They called for widened and expanded market access, including duty- and quota-free access for exports from least developed countries. One delegation requested support from international organizations for building national capacity at all levels, while another delegation stated that ESCAP initiatives had provided significant impetus for the development of trade, investment, tourism and other sectors. In particular, one delegation called upon ESCAP to compile a regional action plan to facilitate the accession to WTO of countries not yet members of that organization.

91. The delegation of Mongolia announced that its Government would host a conference of trade ministers of landlocked developing countries in August 2007 in preparation for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

92. Several delegations noted that trade facilitation was important for helping countries to reach their development goals. In that context, one delegation noted that trade facilitation and trade security were mutually reinforcing and that trade security measures did not become non-tariff barriers to trade. That delegation also noted that, while its country had continued to support development efforts by WTO, aid for trade should not be used as a substitute for trade liberalization.

93. Several delegations noted that an enabling environment was important for business and investment. They informed the Commission of the measures their countries had taken to strengthen private-sector development, such as privatization, trade liberalization and facilitation, strengthening the legal environment, reform of taxation, removal of technical barriers to trade and the elimination of corruption. In that regard, one delegation welcomed the outcome of the fourth Asia-Pacific Business Forum. Another delegation informed the Commission that it had benefited from an extensive exchange of information, including the sharing of information on agricultural machinery and technology with UNAPCAEM towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

94. Several delegations pointed to the need for improving the coverage, accuracy and timeliness of the data required to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and found the capacity-building activities of ESCAP to be very useful in that regard. The development of sustainable statistical capacity was particularly challenging in small Pacific island countries, where statistical offices had limited resources and were adversely affected by high staff turnover. In expressing concern about weak official data and statistical discrepancies in the region, one delegation requested that the secretariat provide increased assistance in strengthening statistical information systems in the Pacific as a whole, and in conducting a cost-benefit analysis on the potential graduation of its country from least developed country status.

95. Several delegations emphasized the need to strengthen South-South cooperation under the United Nations umbrella, which would contribute to the enhancement of cooperation among developing countries and greater economic and social progress.

Sub-item (b)
Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

96. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific" (E/ESCAP/63/4), which was the theme of the sixty-third session. It recognized the relevance and timeliness of the theme and broadly supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the document.

97. Several delegations expressed particular support for the conclusions and recommendations which were related to strengthening the infrastructure of health-care systems, human resources development, research into the functioning of health systems and the proposed establishment of a regional mechanism for financing health care. Another delegation noted that the recommendations in the study were options suggested for the consideration of countries, depending on their needs, priorities and level of development.

98. The Commission noted the vital nexus between economic and social development and health care, with

economic development providing the financial basis for health-care needs, and health care ensuring sustainable economic and social development. In the era of globalization, infectious diseases could spread rapidly across borders, threatening the development and security of affected countries and regions. In addition, it was pointed out that the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the region continued to rise, and malaria and tuberculosis persisted in the region.

99. Several delegations emphasized the need for strengthening regional cooperation to cope with those challenges, as well as to share experiences and best practices. They expressed an interest in working together for the betterment of all people in the region.

100. A few delegations further pointed to the need to establish an effective disease surveillance system for early disease detection and response, as well as for harmonizing national and regional mechanisms for the prevention, control and monitoring of disease outbreaks, complemented by global measures.

101. While supporting the need for joint responses to such risks, the delegations further noted the need to expand technical cooperation to improve prevention and control capabilities and to set up coordination mechanisms for sharing information and experiences.

102. One delegation noted the new challenge that was being faced by health systems as a result of the escalating costs of health care owing to changing disease patterns and demographic patterns and increasing public expectations for better quality health care. Another delegation noted the importance of adopting a holistic approach to health, based on prevention, and the recognition of the close linkages between health on the one hand and diet, environment and lifestyles on the other.

103. The Commission noted that, in order to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals, health systems needed to be developed comprehensively through improvements in health-related infrastructure, human resources and the adoption of sound and workable policies that were well integrated into an overall policy framework.

104. The Commission was briefed on experiences in strengthening health systems in order to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and on the progress that was being made towards the objective of providing the entire population with good-quality health services. In that regard, it noted with interest that some of the developed economies in the region had achieved universal health-care coverage and that some less advanced countries had made significant progress in that direction.

105. One delegation requested that the secretariat provide technical support in the application of telemedicine and the strengthening of the health-care system. While stating that Governments had the primary responsibility for ensuring that their populations, especially the poor and vulnerable, had affordable access to essential drugs, it also expressed recognition of the importance of achieving a balance between the protection of innovations and the access to medicine for protecting public health.

106. The Commission noted that 3 of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and 8 of the 18 targets were related explicitly to health. It noted the crucial importance of good health in reducing poverty and ensuring human development. In that connection, the Commission was informed that many countries, especially least developed countries and Pacific island countries, might have difficulty in achieving those goals, as they lacked the capacity to generate sufficient domestic resources to meet the required health expenditures and needed assistance from development partners. One delegation recalled the importance of establishing an international fund for social development, as had been discussed at the World Summit for Social Development.[9]

107. The Commission noted with appreciation the experience of two delegations in providing other countries with assistance in strengthening health systems, human resources development and financing health care. One delegation also informed the Commission of innovative international initiatives for providing financial assistance to facilitate the access of the poor and disadvantaged to pharmaceuticals through the taxation of air tickets, as an example.

108. The representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies briefed the Commission on its work and identified possible areas of synergy with ESCAP.

Ministerial round table

109. The ministerial round table commenced with a presentation by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the theme topic "Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific". That was followed by presentations by H.E. Mr. Cho Jung-Pyo, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of the Republic of Korea; H.E. Mr. Ensaikhan Mendsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Mongolia; H.E. Mr. Anatoly Dernovoi, Minister of Health Care, Government of Kazakhstan; H.E. Mr. Nurlan Iskakov, Minister for Environmental Protection, Government of Kazakhstan; Dr. Ananda Gunasekara, Head of the delegation of Sri Lanka; Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Dr. Gabit Ismailov, Representative of the Director-General, World Health Organization and Head of the Country Office, World Health Organization, Kazakhstan.

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[9] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. IV, para. 14.

110. In his presentation, the Executive Secretary summarized the contents of the theme study,[10] highlighting the two-way linkages between economic growth and health. He explained that, although the region as a whole was making good progress towards the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, the situation underlying the regional averages was less optimistic. Many countries in the region still had high rates of child and maternal mortality. The region as a whole was off-track with regard to HIV/AIDS, while malaria and tuberculosis remained serious concerns. Health systems in many countries of the region suffered from serious deficiencies in infrastructure, human resources and essential medicines. Ageing populations and epidemiological changes were posing additional challenges to health systems.

111. The Executive Secretary identified the comprehensive strengthening of health systems to deliver a minimum package of health services to all sections of the population as being essential if the region was to make sustained progress towards the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals. High out-of-pocket expenditures in many countries, which exceeded 60 per cent of the total health expenditures, were a major cause of impoverishment in those countries. Moving towards the goal of universal health-care coverage was the most sustainable way to achieve the health-related Goals and to reduce catastrophic health expenditures. That could be achieved by using tax-based or social health insurance mechanisms, depending on the specific context of countries, and it would need commitment at the highest levels. Some countries in the region had shown that it was possible to provide coverage of health services to the entire population even at low levels of economic development, provided that there was commitment and the right mix of policies. The Executive Secretary stressed that the health-related Millennium Development Goals could be achieved if public investment in health care was increased. Three scenarios were presented on the investment requirements, with the spending gap in the case of the least developed countries being $3.6 billion annually and $32.4 billion over the period 2007-2015.

112. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea expressed appreciation for the theme study, and shared the experiences of his country in providing its people with effective and equitable health services. He traced the evolution of the health insurance system in the country and stressed that it had achieved universal coverage at a time when its GDP was far lower than that of other industrialized countries. That was due to the belief of policymakers that investment in health was an essential part of the foundation for economic development, and therefore should not be delayed until after the achievement of such development. The Vice-Minister stressed that the health divide was the worst form of inequality.

113. The Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia noted the importance and timeliness of the theme study and the fact that it explored a number of issues related to the strengthening of health systems in the region. He outlined the progress made by Mongolia in a number of health-related indicators due to the implementation of the universal health-care coverage scheme since 1994. He stressed that universal health-care coverage was essential for ensuring social equity and maintaining social solidarity. He stated that Mongolia clearly accorded primacy to social development and equity as a basis for development and that the provision of universal health-care coverage was the most sustainable way to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals. The example of Mongolia showed that countries could move towards the goal of universal coverage even at low levels of GDP.

114. In his address, the Minister of Health Care of Kazakhstan highlighted the steps that were being taken by the Government to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals as part of the State programme for improving health care by 2010, and as part of the country's overall development strategy. One of the main thrusts of the programme was to create an effective system for the delivery of primary health care. The Minister pointed out that the benefits of increased attention to health were already evident in increased life expectancy and reduced child and maternal mortality rates. He reiterated the resolve of Kazakhstan to place health at the forefront of the development agenda.

115. The Head of the delegation of Sri Lanka highlighted the achievements of that country in terms of social and health indicators. Sri Lanka accorded importance to building health infrastructure and providing human resources, especially in rural areas, in order to ensure access to health services for the poorest sections of the population. Health and education were made available free of cost to the entire population, and literacy rates had improved, especially female literacy. The main thrust was on empowering women, and that had contributed significantly to the improvement of the health status of the population.

116. The High Representative of the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States noted that the trends in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals outlined in the theme study underscored the vulnerability of the least developed countries. The High Representative felt that implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[11] could substantively assist those countries in securing the levels of economic and social development required for poverty reduction.

117. The Representative of the Director-General of WHO expressed appreciation to the Commission for placing health high on the agenda. He outlined four strategic directions that needed to be addressed in order to achieve better health outcomes, namely the

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[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.F.12.

[11] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

establishment of coherent partnerships, getting results from health systems, providing more effective support to countries and addressing the international health-systems agenda. He stressed the importance of partnerships between WHO and the rest of the United Nations system for a more coherent and effective response to meet the challenges faced by developing countries.

118. The Minister for Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, in a special address to the Commission, highlighted the importance of sustainable development in promoting balanced development for improving economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The Minister noted the close interlinkages between sustainable development and public health. On behalf of the Government of Kazakhstan, he offered to host the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Astana in 2010, followed by a joint conference for Asia and Europe in 2011. It was also the intention of Kazakhstan to establish a centre on environmental protection in Astana.

119. During the discussions, many delegations extended general support for the findings and recommendations of the theme study. The round table noted that the study was relevant and timely and addressed many issues that were relevant to the ESCAP region. While expressing appreciation for the thrust and content of the theme study, one delegation took the view that ESCAP should work in close cooperation with organizations such as WHO and provide a platform for the exchange of experiences on issues related to health and development.

120. The round table recognized that health and poverty were interrelated, and that ensuring access to health services was essential for reducing poverty. It also recognized that health was a fundamental human right and played a major role in sustainable development. Increased investments in health were required for accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and many delegations stated their resolve to increase public investments in health. However, the inadequacy of resources was a major barrier to the provision of health services. In that context, a few delegations expressed the need to create regional mechanisms for financing investments in health.

121. The round table noted that progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals would depend on increasing domestic resources and external investments in health, and improving the effectiveness of available resources. Policy and institutional reforms, reallocations in spending patterns and improved macroeconomic environments would provide Governments with the fiscal space to increase investments in health. System-wide approaches were important in order to align investments in the health sector more closely with national development processes. One delegation shared its experiences in raising resources for the health sector through taxation on tobacco and alcoholic beverages.

122. The round table also noted that the primary responsibility of individual countries was to give due priority to strengthening health-care services in order to provide a basic package of such services to the whole population. The Millennium Development Goals needed to be incorporated into national development strategies in order to improve the ownership of the Goals. That would ensure that the Millennium Development Goal strategies were country-driven and results-based and incorporated a partnership approach, with the involvement of the Government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. One delegation highlighted the importance of working with communities, especially in health promotion.

123. The round table was briefed by several delegations about the steps that were being taken by them to provide health services to all sections of the population. The delegations provided details of the health-financing mechanisms being adopted by them, along with focused interventions to reduce child and maternal mortality and the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

124. The round table noted with interest the actions being undertaken by members and associate members of ESCAP in order to avert the threat of a pandemic of avian influenza. It noted that coordinated multisectoral actions were required for keeping the disease in check. The round table also noted the important role of regional cooperation in tackling the spread of communicable diseases.

125. The round table heard with interest the experience of one delegation with regard to the migration of health workers and the adverse impact on health systems caused by the export of human capital to developed countries. Some delegations also briefed the round table on actions being taken by them to improve the accessibility and affordability of life-saving drugs and medicines.

126. The round table noted that regional cooperation was essential for the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals. One delegation called for a regional partnership to provide a collaborative research network, expertise, capacity development and financial aid among States in the region. In noting the growing awareness of the linkage between investment in health and economic growth, the delegation stated that it was important to identify the main areas where foreign policy could make a significant contribution to the protection and promotion of global health. Another delegation called for ESCAP to facilitate regional cooperation in order to provide capacity development in the area of improving health facilities and affordable access to medicines.

127. The round table was briefed by one delegation on the actions being taken by its Government in order to promote universal health-care coverage in the region through regional cooperation, financing initiatives and

global initiatives. The round table noted with interest the initiatives taken by that Government towards providing affordable drugs in the region through global partnerships and solidarity.

128. The Executive Secretary summarized the discussions and expressed appreciation to the panelists and the delegations for the active and rich discussions during the round table. He noted that many good points had been made during the discussions and that the salient points included the following:

(a) Many countries in the region had a long way to go towards the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Increasing public investment in health was important not only for improving the health status of the population but also for stimulating sustained economic growth;

(c) Countries that had come far towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals were those which had ensured that all sections of the population had access to a minimum level of health care at an affordable cost;

(d) Regional cooperation and the sharing of experiences between countries could be of immense benefit for the improved financing of health systems, providing a regional platform for health-systems research and optimizing the benefits of trade in health services.

129. The Commission adopted resolution 63/8 on sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific.

Sub-item (c)
Work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission

130. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission" (E/ESCAP/63/5).

131. In the context of the rapid development of the Asian and Pacific region and the new challenges that had arisen as a result of globalization, two delegations noted that ESCAP would play a vital role in the future as the most inclusive intergovernmental forum in the region. One delegation noted that ESCAP could act as a vehicle for member-driven economic and social development, providing critical expertise in key areas while harnessing the strengths of all regional development stakeholders in supplying comprehensive and integrated development services to the member States. Another delegation suggested that ESCAP continue to encourage policy dialogue and coordination among developing countries, promote scientific development, take part in infrastructure development and help developing countries in the region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals at an early date, thus making new contributions to the development of the region. Yet another delegation suggested that ESCAP focus its activities on the poor.

132. One delegation noted with pleasure that the membership of ESCAP had grown sixfold in 60 years. It further noted that, while ESCAP had increased in size and influence, it had also improved coherence in the delivery of United Nations policy in Asia and the Pacific. The delegation noted that, in the context of the formation of eight pilot programmes throughout the world in order to test the "One UN" model, the regional economic commissions were the best organizations for performing the related monitoring and reporting functions. It recommended that ESCAP be given a mandate for such reporting at the forthcoming session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

133. In the context of infrastructure development, one delegation informed the Commission that, as a follow-up to the discussions on infrastructure development and infrastructure financing held at the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006,[12] a ministerial meeting on public-private partnerships on infrastructure development would be held in Seoul on 5 October 2007.

134. The Commission noted the importance of transport in supporting regional integration and access to landlocked countries, trade and tourism. It commended the work of the secretariat with regard to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network[13] and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network as well as its facilitation of cross-border and transit transport movements. It also took note of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, which had been held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006. Several delegations expressed their support for the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007-2011, the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific, and the proposal for a forum of ministers that would meet frequently to address persistent and emerging issues in the transport sector (see E/ESCAP/63/13).

135. In recognizing the important role that ICT could play in sustainable development, the delegation of the Republic of Korea reported that its Government had acted as the host for APCICT, established in June 2006 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Centre was expected to contribute to building the capacity of member countries in the use of ICT for development.

136. In view of the fact that the utilization of information, communication and space technology was becoming increasingly important in ensuring the success

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[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 19* (E/2006/39), paras. 94-123 and 388-414.

[13] See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

of development efforts, the Commission welcomed the offer by the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which would be held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 23 October 2007, as well as the Ministerial Round Table on Disaster Management. The Conference and Round Table were expected to catalyse further the utilization of ICT to enhance knowledge and share experiences in the use of ICST for development.

137. In recognizing that natural disasters were one of the most destructive factors militating against the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, one delegation observed that there was a need for establishing a regional mechanism for the management of natural disasters through enhanced regional cooperation. That delegation further requested support for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for ICST-enabled disaster management, which would assist the member countries in taking pre-disaster actions, such as early warning, through information management.

138. Several delegations noted that environmental degradation was a key concern of the Asian and Pacific region and called upon the international community to support remedies for the adverse socio-ecological impacts caused by environmental disasters. In the context of Goal 7 on environmental sustainability, those delegations underscored the importance of improving access to water sources, in particular safe drinking water, as a priority for government policies. One delegation also noted that there was a need for support from the international community for the development, practical implementation and further strengthening of cooperation mechanisms involving transboundary water sources.

139. Several delegations noted that energy security was of increasing importance for sustaining economic growth and stressed the need for regional cooperation in that regard. Some delegations also noted the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in the energy and electricity sectors, among others, as a common approach to supplement national efforts. Some delegations urged that closer cooperation be fostered between ESCAP and subregional organizations such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, ECO and ADB. One delegation noted that energy security, as a possible theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, was an important one for the ESCAP region. The same delegation supported the proposal to create a trans-Asian energy system, which had been made at the third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, and the decision to launch a consultative process on that initiative (see E/ESCAP/63/11, paras. 73-75).

140. Several delegations noted that the scientific evidence for climate change had become overwhelming, as presented by the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Those delegations emphasized that rising sea levels, induced by climate change, posed a threat to the survival of Pacific nations and could suddenly paralyse all their development efforts. One delegation requested that the secretariat prepare a paper on adaptation strategies for the Pacific island States. The Commission was informed by the delegation of Indonesia that the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[14] would be held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2007.

141. Some delegations noted that high and volatile oil prices had caused a negative impact on macroeconomic management and efforts to achieve sustainable development. One delegation stressed the need for developing alternative sources of energy, including biofuels, in order to reduce dependence on oil. The delegation noted that, in addition to encouraging regional cooperative efforts in the exploitation of hydrocarbon-based forms of conventional energy, intercountry cooperation needed to be stimulated in the areas of alternative energy development and energy conservation. In noting the successful establishment of cooperation in the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, the same delegation observed that the secretariat might wish to conduct a study on the possibility of building networks of Asian oil pipelines.

142. One delegation noted that reductions in infant mortality, the provision of universal health care and free education, while contributing to higher life expectancy for both men and women, might bring about structural changes in demographic characteristics. That would result in an ageing population, which would pose significant socio-economic challenges in the context of welfare and economic sustenance. That delegation called for enhanced regional efforts by ESCAP and the international community to assist countries in those areas.

143. One delegation informed the Commission that the regional issue of international migration would be the focus of discussions at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum to be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in June 2007.

144. Many delegations expressed their continued commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. While recognizing the importance of health as a precondition for the achievement of the Goals, several delegations from Pacific island countries expressed concern about the challenges posed by Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability. One delegation underscored climate change as a vital concern of small island developing countries, which were vulnerable to a rise in sea level.

145. One delegation expressed its support for the "re-energized" ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre. One delegation requested EPOC assistance in its labour-market programmes. Another delegation urged that ESCAP further strengthen EPOC so that it could respond even more effectively to Pacific interests. One delegation expressed support for the topic to be

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[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

discussed at the tenth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, which would be held in Bangkok in April 2008, on the issue of economic and social policies to address labour-market trends in Pacific island developing countries and territories, and the formulation of national development strategies. One delegation urged that ESCAP perform detailed stocktaking of its assistance to the Pacific subregion, in particular the least developed countries, and to present the findings to the Special Body at its session in 2008, outlining success stories and constraints in support of Millennium Development Goal attainment. Two delegations commended as important the work done under the Pacific connectivity project. They noted its relevance in contributing to development objectives in the Pacific, especially in the health and education sectors.

Agenda item 4

Consideration of legislative body and intergovernmental meeting reports and implementation of selected Commission resolutions, including resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration

Sub-item (a)

Emerging social issues

146. The Commission had before it the documents entitled "Report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its third session" (E/ESCAP/63/6) and "Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues" (E/ESCAP/63/7). It expressed appreciation for the high quality of the documents on emerging social issues.

147. The Commission expressed support for the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, as contained in the report on its third session. It also noted the progress made towards the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues.

148. The Commission expressed appreciation for the role played by ESCAP in highlighting existing and emerging social issues at the regional level, including those covered by the Millennium Development Goals. Several delegations requested the secretariat to continue its efforts in assisting members and associate members of ESCAP through technical support and advisory services. Several delegations expressed a willingness to work with the secretariat in sharing their experiences in areas of social development with other members and associate members.

149. The Commission welcomed the forthcoming High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Shanghai Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, to be held in Macao, China, in October 2007. Several delegations stressed that, in order to ensure fruitful and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[15] relevant United Nations institutions should establish active and close collaboration with members at the country level by providing technical and advisory support to develop national plans of action on ageing.

150. One delegation urged that the secretariat conduct research on the information and disaggregated data needs concerning older persons, and continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in relation to the well-being of older persons, especially on attitudinal changes towards older persons, as well as community-based care for older persons.

151. Noting that migration had become a major issue in the era of globalization and that it played a very important role in economic and social development, several delegations stressed the need to promote legal and orderly migration through formal channels. They called on the secretariat, in collaboration with relevant agencies, to facilitate bilateral and multilateral dialogues among members and associate members with a particular focus on mechanisms for providing legal migrant workers with social protection and basic health services and measures designed to reduce the transaction costs of remittances.

152. Several delegations noted with appreciation the good work of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collecting and analysing migration statistics and the significant role played by the International Organization for Migration in providing a forum for the ongoing discussion on international migration and development. The delegations requested that the secretariat conduct analytical studies on international migration, including its negative impact, such as the "brain drain", and provide a forum for a regional dialogue to facilitate discussion on international migration and development, as a follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York in 2006. One delegation shared its experience on the measures that were being taken to address issues regarding international migration as well as on ongoing bilateral cooperation.

153. One delegation encouraged the secretariat to coordinate with existing consultative processes regarding a possible forum for dialogue on migration in the region. It also encouraged the secretariat to coordinate with various organizations working on migration in order to prevent duplication of effort and ensure the most effective use of limited resources.

154. One delegation stressed the importance of ESCAP following up the Shanghai Declaration with regard to the promotion of human security.

155. The Commission supported the efforts of ESCAP in the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an

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[15] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2012,[16] and welcomed the convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on its midpoint review. It also welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[17] One delegation shared its experience on the measures taken for persons with disabilities.

156. The Commission noted that, while unemployment in general had been reasonably reduced, youth unemployment should be addressed specifically. One delegation shared its experience in providing social protection and developing national youth programmes for promoting social adaptation, improving the quality of education and providing employment opportunities for youth.

157. The Commission recognized the two-way linkage between health and economic development. Several delegations noted that policy and institutional reforms, reallocations in spending patterns and improved macroeconomic environments provided the fiscal space for Governments to focus on health investment. They also noted that the financing of health care was not an issue concerning the health sector alone, but also involved overall economic and socio-political decisions and had a significant impact on poverty reduction and the general well-being of the people through increased productivity, income generation and capital formation.

158. The Commission noted with interest the reports of progress made by several countries towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals. It also noted the difficulties faced by many countries, especially least developed countries, in that endeavour. Therefore, those countries required assistance, inter alia, in their efforts to improve the health-related infrastructure and the quality of human resources, through technical assistance, capacity-building and advisory services.

159. The Commission noted the need for multisectoral action, by involving all stakeholders, including local communities, in order to improve the accessibility, quality and efficiency of health systems for achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Several delegations took the view that the effectiveness of public spending on health could be improved by aligning external resource flows more closely with national priorities and by improving governance. One delegation shared its experience on raising resources for the health sector by levying health taxes on tobacco and beverages.

160. Several delegations were of the view that member countries could do more to increase public investments in health, which were below 10 per cent of GDP in many developing countries of the region. Some delegations requested that the secretariat provide technical support for promoting regional cooperation on investment in health and for providing capacity-building programmes for allocating, managing and utilizing the funds.

161. Some delegations shared their experiences in working towards the goal of accessible universal coverage of health care. They noted that ensuring accessible universal coverage of a basic package of health services for all sections of the population, through social health insurance or tax-based financing, was a sustainable way to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals and to reduce high out-of-pocket expenditures, which resulted in widespread poverty in the region.

162. One delegation informed the Commission that it had tabled a draft resolution on sustainable financing towards achieving universal coverage of health care in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/L.7), which was co-sponsored by six other delegations, and sought support from all member States for its adoption.

163. The Commission noted that member States should work towards the goal of universal access to health care. One delegation noted that the secretariat was in a good position to provide technical support in monitoring regional progress towards that goal. Another delegation stressed that existing forums should be used for sharing experiences rather than creating new platforms.

164. The Commission noted that communicable diseases and natural disasters could have serious consequences for socio-economic development. The Commission was briefed on steps taken by some delegations to tackle the threat of communicable diseases, such as avian influenza and HIV/AIDS, and non-communicable diseases. They noted that comprehensive intersectoral approaches were required to tackle the spread of communicable diseases.

165. One delegation suggested that early warning systems be established at the regional and international levels to mitigate the consequences of the spread of infectious diseases. That could be done in close coordination with WHO and FAO. Another delegation called for enhancing regional cooperation, under the auspices of ESCAP, in order to establish a transregional mechanism for the management of natural disasters through the exchange of data and information and by providing early warning services.

166. The Commission expressed its support for the work of the secretariat on social development, including gender equality and the tackling of issues related to women and poverty, violence against women and sexual exploitation.

167. The Commission was informed of national experiences in framing policies for the development of women, ensuring the empowerment of women through

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[16] See Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003 (for the text of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, see E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1).

[17] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

programmes of education and training, and encouraging the participation of women in the decision-making process.

Sub-item (b)
Poverty reduction

168. The Commission had before it the documents entitled "Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its third session" (E/ESCAP/63/8), "Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction" (E/ESCAP/63/9) and relevant parts of "Progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration" (E/ESCAP/63/17).

169. The Commission noted that poverty was one of the most pressing problems in the world and in the Asian and Pacific region. A number of delegations noted the importance of documentation and dissemination of innovative and effective experiences in poverty reduction and the role of ESCAP as a forum for sharing ideas and experiences in poverty reduction. Some of those delegations expressed appreciation for the technical cooperation work of the secretariat in the area of poverty reduction, in particular that related to capacity-building in statistics.

170. Several delegations noted that people had to be at the centre of all poverty-reduction programmes, because the efforts of poor people themselves would ultimately eradicate poverty, but at the same time the poor needed a stable and supportive environment, with opportunities for health care, education, employment and security. One delegation stressed that economic growth was a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for poverty reduction; equity was also important. Another delegation noted the critical role played by education in the development of human capital and in poverty reduction.

171. Several delegations reported on their national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and on the progress they had made so far. China, for example, had halved poverty since 1990, and that achievement had greatly contributed to the reduction of poverty at the global level.

172. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the fact that the Republic of Korea had been implementing a joint project on rural development, the "New Community Movement" with the ESCAP secretariat through the Korea International Cooperation Agency in order to disseminate the lessons that the country had learned in reducing poverty during the 1970s. The first phase of that project, for which the Republic of Korea had contributed $600,000, had been completed, and the second phase was about to start; a contribution of $1.25 million from the Government of the Republic of Korea had been made for that purpose. Appreciation was also expressed for an ESCAP-supported project in Mongolia aimed at improving the housing conditions of the urban poor.

173. One delegation pointed out that most of the poor still lived in rural and peri-urban areas and that poverty reduction efforts needed to be focused on those areas. In that regard, one delegation offered to share its experiences with other countries and expressed an interest in learning more about SMEs and rural-urban linkages from other countries in order to develop its capacities in that respect, and pointed out that ESCAP could play an important facilitating role.

174. Several delegations noted that the essential instruments for reducing poverty included increasing agricultural productivity, empowering and developing the capacity of the rural poor, fostering rural industrialization, strengthening rural-urban linkages, improving access to microcredit and providing an enabling environment for SMEs. One delegation mentioned that decentralization was a powerful tool for poverty reduction, provided it was adapted to local circumstances.

175. One delegation expressed appreciation for the implementation of Commission resolution 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific. The delegation highlighted the important role that CAPSA could play in alleviating rural poverty and advancing food security through the development of secondary crops. It encouraged other member States to make good use of that Centre and to lend it valuable support in order to enhance its research, analytical capability and development programme.

176. Some delegations noted the importance of policy coherence at the international, regional and national levels, and of joint and coordinated actions by the United Nations, development banks, donor and recipient countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. One delegation emphasized that external support needed to be aligned with the development priorities of the countries concerned in order to achieve a real transfer of resources for investment.

177. One delegation, in referring to the report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its third session (E/ESCAP/63/8), noted that the concept of human security was not an internationally accepted concept and that the introduction of such a concept was unnecessary and counterproductive. However, another delegation noted that the concept of human security had been accepted by the APEC leaders and had also been included in paragraph 17(g) of the Shanghai Declaration.

178. The Commission noted that independent and timely statistics on poverty and other development indicators played a critical role in poverty-reduction efforts. Some delegations expressed the wish that the secretariat and SIAP increase their technical assistance, including training activities, in order to enhance the capacity of developing countries in the area of statistics, including those needed for tracking the progress that

was being made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in analysing related statistics.

179. The Commission noted that the availability of comparable and updated statistics on the informal sector and informal employment was important, as such statistics were needed for the formulation of relevant and effective poverty-reduction policies. One delegation expressed the wish that the secretariat promote the adoption of common methodologies for data collection with regard to the informal sector and that data collection on informal-sector statistics be included in the regular programmes of work of statistical offices in the region. It identified the application of statistical matching techniques and the design of a single comprehensive survey tool as areas in which the secretariat could provide assistance.

180. Some delegations recognized the importance of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses as a source for comprehensive, timely and internationally comparable information on social development in general, and phenomena such as maternal mortality in particular. They took note of related regional technical assistance activities, as outlined in the previously mentioned report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, while urging that the secretariat and SIAP enhance their role in supporting human resources development in national statistical systems, including building the capacity of such systems to make better use of population and housing censuses and household surveys in development planning and policymaking.

181. One delegation observed that the poverty-reduction efforts of the secretariat needed to be more focused on areas where the secretariat had a comparative advantage, capacity-building in statistics being one such area.

182. Some delegations noted that community-based monitoring systems could play a key role in helping countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals at the local level by providing information that would supplement official statistics. The sharing of best practices and expertise in that area as well as in the development of national databases needed to be facilitated by the secretariat.

Sub-item (c)
Managing globalization

183. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/63/10, E/ESCAP/63/11, E/ESCAP/63/12, E/ESCAP/63/13, E/ESCAP/63/14 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/63/15 and E/ESCAP/63/16, pertaining to the work of four subprogrammes in the area of managing globalization, namely Trade and investment, Transport and tourism, Environment and sustainable development and Information, communication and space technology. It commended the secretariat on the quality of the documents.

184. The Commission expressed general support for the recommendations contained in the documents pertaining to agenda item 4 (c).

185. The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mongolia pointed out that they were sponsoring draft resolutions, respectively, on establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management (E/ESCAP/63/L.5) and on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (E/ESCAP/63/L.9), and requested the support of member countries in that regard.

Subprogramme 4
Trade and investment

186. Several delegations specifically noted the importance of trade and investment for economic growth, poverty reduction and social progress. One delegation noted the importance of creating an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. In that regard, another delegation expressed firm support for the early success of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

187. A few delegations specifically noted that over the past years globalization had promoted rapid economic development and indicated the need for developing countries to be able to reap the benefits of globalization.

188. One delegation expressed appreciation for the joint technical assistance programme of the secretariat and WTO, and the important work of the secretariat in facilitating the accession to WTO of countries which were not yet members, as well as for the assistance it provided in the harmonization of regional and bilateral trade agreements with WTO rules. It recommended that that work be continued in partnership with WTO. Another delegation requested that the secretariat increase cooperation with ECO and make due reference to the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement in its work on regional trade agreements.

189. Several delegations noted the importance of trade facilitation and efficiency and the current negotiations on trade facilitation within the context of the Doha round. One delegation expressed support for the promotion of regional cooperation in that area through the establishment of regional and subregional networks of national trade facilitation committees and bodies. Another delegation called for the expansion of efforts in those areas, while yet another delegation requested that the secretariat convene a regional workshop on the harmonization and simplification of transit trade documents.

190. One delegation specifically supported the secretariat's initiatives to promote the integration of SMEs into regional and global value chains. Another

delegation called on the secretariat to expand efforts to assist member countries in the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular through the microfinancing of SMEs.

191. With regard to the fourth Asia-Pacific Business Forum, one delegation emphasized the importance of the recommendations it had adopted.

192. Some delegations expressed support for normative and analytical work in trade and investment to be carried out by the secretariat.

193. One delegation mentioned its willingness to work with other countries in the areas of trade and poverty through the successful conclusion of multilateral and regional trade agreements for common prosperity and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

194. Some delegations expressed support for the expansion of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement as a mechanism for promoting intraregional trade and economic integration.

195. One delegation noted the importance of trade-related research and analysis and, in that context, expressed appreciation for the work of ARTNeT and recommended that that work be continued.

196. With reference to the United Nations Global Compact, one delegation spoke in support of good corporate citizenship and recognized that, while some companies had tried to achieve recognition for their conscientious behaviour through the Compact, firms could also act as good corporate citizens by participating in voluntary corporate responsibility initiatives or by carrying out their regular business.

197. While expressing support for the findings in document E/ESCAP/63/15 and recommending their adoption, one delegation emphasized that it would suffice if the analytical and normative work to develop indicators referred to the Millennium Development Goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[18] rather than Goal 8.

198. One delegation stated that trade security should not become a non-tariff barrier to trade. It should not result in the further marginalization of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and island developing countries as well as other developing countries.

199. One delegation pointed out that technical assistance for capacity-building for the least developed countries was very important in addition to duty- and quota-free market access and simplified rules of origin. Another delegation expressed the opinion that the aid-for-trade initiative should not be a substitute for trade liberalization and should not dilute existing special and differential treatment provisions as contained in WTO agreements for members that were not beneficiaries of that initiative.

200. One delegation pointed out that regional cooperation should be aimed at the promotion of sustainable economic development under the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

201. Several delegations stressed the important role of transport in promoting economic and social development and facilitating regional integration, and in particular, emphasized the special needs and constraints of landlocked developing countries and archipelagic countries owing to their geographical situation.

202. Several delegations welcomed the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006, and expressed their support for the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for phase I (2007-2011) in order to achieve the long-term vision of an international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system for the region (see E/ESCAP/63/13).

203. Several delegations supported the continued implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development project, including further development of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks and the Asia-Europe transport corridors. Several delegations updated the Commission on their progress in developing transport infrastructure at the national level and with neighbouring countries. One delegation stressed the benefit of dry ports and logistics centres, which would enable effective management of long-distance transport and accelerate the movement of cargoes. The same delegation suggested that member countries focus on operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network through the organization of demonstration container block-trains and the identification of bottlenecks for transit cargo. Some delegations informed the Commission that they were undertaking national procedures to ratify the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

204. Recognizing the importance of regional and international collaboration in addressing transport development issues, several delegations supported the establishment of a regional forum of Asian ministers of transport.

205. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat in facilitating international transport by, among other things, assisting countries in establishing harmonized legal regimes and eliminating non-physical obstacles to the smooth movement of goods and people. In that respect, the implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, and the harmonization of border-crossing, customs and banking procedures were considered of particular importance.

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[18] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

206. One delegation requested that the secretariat continue working on transport facilitation, which would result in the formulation of multilateral legal instruments regarding international transport, thereby providing appropriate mechanisms to further reduce the delays and costs associated with border crossings in the region.

207. One delegation proposed that the secretariat provide technical assistance to member countries in dealing with transit agreements. The exchange of experts and professionals was also suggested as a possible form of cooperation among ESCAP members and associate members.

208. One delegation noted the importance of the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries with regard to putting into place effective transit transport systems, which would provide secure and predictable access to global markets of products from landlocked developing countries.

209. Several delegations expressed strong support for the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. IV), which had been adopted at the previously mentioned Ministerial Conference on Transport. One delegation proposed that intergovernmental consultations be held to consider specific road safety goals and indicators that would contribute to achieving the major objectives of the Declaration.

210. Several delegations informed the Commission of their national actions during "Global Road Safety Week", which had been observed in April 2007, and their ongoing activities in that area.

211. Several delegations noted that the financing of transport infrastructure was an issue of major concern. They apprised the Commission of measures that they had taken to create a climate conducive to private-sector participation.

212. The delegation of the Republic of Korea announced that it would organize and host, through the Ministry of Planning and Budget, a ministerial conference on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development to be held in Seoul on 5 October 2007, with ESCAP providing support to the conference. The delegation stated that the ministerial conference would provide an opportunity to consider establishing a network linking Governments that planned to promote public-private partnership projects as well as to exchange information and experiences. The Republic of Korea also offered to host an expert group meeting on public-private partnerships immediately prior to the conference (2-3 October 2007) and to organize an Asia-Pacific business forum on public-private partnerships, which would be organized jointly by ESCAP and the Korea Development Institute and hosted by that Institute.

213. Several delegations took note of the regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development (E/ESCAP/63/14), which had been prepared by the secretariat pursuant to the request in paragraph 3(c) of Commission resolution 62/3 of 12 April 2006. They encouraged members and associate members of ESCAP to use the recommendations contained in the report as a guide in implementing their tourism programmes.

214. Several delegations stressed the important role that tourism played in socio-economic development. It was also an effective tool for sustainable development, contributing to poverty reduction and the preservation and protection of the natural and built environments, as well as of the cultural heritage.

215. One delegation proposed that focus be given to improving accessibility to tourism locations through improved air and surface transport as well as travel facilitation measures.

216. Two delegations commended the work of the secretariat in human resources management through the Network of Asian and Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism. The delegation of China observed the importance of the Network and expressed its willingness to enhance exchanges through the Network and informed the Commission of its preparation of tourism satellite accounts. It also called upon other countries to contribute to the Network.

217. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran confirmed its offer to host a meeting celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Network in 2007.

218. The Commission adopted resolution 63/5 on the midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

219. The Commission also adopted resolution 63/9 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

220. Many delegations emphasized that sustainable development was a cross-cutting issue. They also underlined the importance of environmental sustainability with regard to economic development, including in areas such as transport, tourism, agriculture and rural development. One delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts of ESCAP in the regional implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[19] and other global summits.

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[19] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

221. The same delegation noted that rapid economic growth exerted enormous pressure on environmental carrying capacity. Harmonization of economic growth and environmental sustainability therefore required concerted actions between Governments, the private sector and civil society. A few delegations noted the importance of creating incentives to stimulate private-sector investment in the development of energy infrastructure.

222. Some delegations stressed the importance of continuing the pursuit of a green-growth strategy and improving access to cleaner technologies. One delegation noted that energy, water resources and environmental protection needed to be promoted in a balanced manner.

223. Several delegations emphasized the importance of addressing climate change issues by promoting the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol[20] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other measures, such as cleaner fuels, energy efficiency and technology transfer. The delegation of Indonesia announced that it would host the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and the third meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 14 December 2007.

224. A few delegations suggested that the secretariat consider providing technical assistance to members and associate members of ESCAP in order to strengthen their capacity in effectively implementing the clean development mechanism.

225. Several delegations suggested that access to environmentally sound technologies and the promotion of research and development (R and D) in new, cleaner technologies would support the efforts of developing countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One delegation recommended that R and D institutions cooperate with one another on technology development and transfer.

226. Several delegations noted that energy was of vital importance to socio-economic development, and that it included access to energy services for improving the well-being of people in the region and for facilitating the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They underlined the importance of energy security in ensuring the stability and sustainability of energy supplies, as the demand for energy was expected to grow due to economic growth.

227. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken by ESCAP in promoting subregional energy cooperation, such as in North-East Asia, and noted that such initiatives could form the platform for broader trans-Asian energy cooperation. They noted that ESCAP could play an important role in facilitating such cooperation. One delegation supported the proposal that had been discussed at the third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization for the creation of a trans-Asian energy system and the recommendation that further consideration be given to that initiative (E/ESCAP/63/11, paras. 73-75). One delegation indicated that there was a need for organizing workshops and further consultations with member countries in order to consider the proposal concerning the establishment of a trans-Asian energy system. Another delegation noted that cooperation could take different forms, such as technology transfer, knowledge transfer and energy trade and policy coordination.

228. The Commission noted the outcome of the 12th Senior Officials Meeting of the North East Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), which had been held in Beijing in March 2007. One delegation noted that, regarding the proposal for a new institutional mechanism, a decision needed to be taken on the basis of consensus among the member countries of NEASPEC, while ensuring close cooperation between the new programme and ESCAP.

229. One delegation reiterated its proposal made during the sixty-first session of the Commission, calling for the development of an agreement on an oil and gas pipeline transport network for Asia and the Pacific.

230. A few delegations called for diversification of sources and types of energy resources, including the wider use of renewable energy resources, such as biomass and hydropower, in order to contribute to sustainable development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

231. One delegation stressed that land degradation, desertification, dust and sandstorms, drought and other issues relating to land and soil be considered as main components of environmental sustainability.

232. The Commission adopted resolution 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Subprogramme 7
Information, communication and space technology

233. Several delegations noted in particular the forward-looking policies and plans for the application of ICST in the developing countries of the region. They supported the secretariat's initiatives to maximize the utilization of ICST for sustainable economic and social development, including for the improvement of the entrepreneurial and technical capacity of SMEs.

234. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 23 October 2007. That Conference would include a ministerial round table on disaster management, an international symposium on space and a technical exhibition, among other activities.

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[20] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

235. Several delegations stressed that the Ministerial Conference should provide a platform for sharing technical information on ICST applications for poverty alleviation, disaster reduction and sustainable development.

236. One delegation suggested that the Ministerial Conference consider a thematic approach to the implementation of the next phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme. The overarching goal should be poverty alleviation with emphasis on the thematic areas of disaster management, natural resources and environmental management as well as telemedicine and tele-education.

237. A few delegations supported the secretariat's initiative on the establishment of a knowledge network in the development of ICST to support socio-economic progress, capacity-building and the sharing of experiences, and requested that the secretariat continue its work in those areas.

238. One delegation referred to its experience in the area of knowledge management, including the establishment of a knowledge centre, and expressed willingness to share its experience. The delegation requested that the secretariat provide more technical assistance with the aim of accelerating the sharing of knowledge and experience, especially that of countries with established e-centres, and act as a knowledge-sharing centre for member countries.

239. One delegation requested that the secretariat consider the regional transfer of technology, including ICT, and the promotion of the exchange of experts regionally.

240. In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Commission of the establishment of the Asian Seismology Risk Reduction Centre in May 2007, under the auspices of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

241. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission of the joint efforts made by its Government, in cooperation with many other countries, organizations and the ESCAP secretariat, in the implementation of the Sentinel Asia project, which was aimed at expanding the opportunities for sharing satellite information for disaster management and contributing to a comprehensive Asian disaster-prevention and risk-reduction system. The delegation added that the Government of Japan would host the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

242. The delegation of China stated that high priority was being given by its Government to the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, which could enhance the effective use of the financial, technical, market and human resources of the member countries and provide opportunities for sharing the costs and risks of technical cooperation projects of common interest and also provide a platform for other countries in developing their national space capabilities through multilateral cooperation.

243. One delegation emphasized that the lack of capacity and unbalanced development between and within countries were major causes of the digital divide, and requested that the secretariat address the digital divide through coordination and regional cooperation.

244. While supporting the efforts of the secretariat in promoting open-source software and community-based ICT access facilities in order to create digital opportunities for SMEs, one delegation also stressed the important role that free and commercial software might play in creating those opportunities.

245. Several delegations informed the Commission of the latest developments in ICT applications for economic and social development at the national level in their countries. Those included e-government, e-commerce, e-tourism and other e-services. They expressed their willingness to cooperate with the secretariat in sharing knowledge and experiences in those areas.

246. The Commission adopted resolution 63/10 on the review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management. Subsequently, it adopted decision 63/1 on the deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for ICST-enabled Disaster Management until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

247. The Commission also adopted resolution 63/1 on the Almaty Declaration: Commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Sub-item (d)
Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration

248. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration" (E/ESCAP/63/17).

249. It was decided that, owing to the broad scope of the Declaration, deliberation on the sub-item would be subsumed under sub-items (a), (b) and (c).

Agenda item 5
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

250. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/63/18). It expressed appreciation to the

secretariat for the comprehensive report and support for the recommendations contained therein, on (a) intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development and to widen access to energy services in least developed and landlocked developing countries and (b) international migration and development in least developed and landlocked developing countries: challenges and opportunities. It noted that the discussion of both issues was timely and of relevance to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

251. In connection with intercountry cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development and to widen access to energy services in least developed and landlocked developing countries, the Commission emphasized that the availability of energy was key to economic development and poverty reduction. It was also essential for meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that connection, it noted the need for widening the access of such countries to energy services, using all viable sources of energy.

252. The Commission recognized the need for holding regular policy dialogues among least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on energy security, and several delegations recommended that the secretariat play a catalytic and facilitating role towards the establishment of a framework on cooperation for energy security. One delegation suggested changing the word "energy" to "all kinds of energy".

253. Several delegations recommended that the secretariat undertake policy studies on how to accelerate cooperation among the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as with other members and associate members of ESCAP in the sharing of experiences in the development of renewable energy and the promotion of energy exchange, trade and transit.

254. The Commission noted the strong correlation between migration and poverty reduction. One delegation recommended that orderly international migration be integrated into national development and poverty reduction strategy papers since it could contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. Because remittances comprised a larger share of international financial inflows to some countries than export receipts, investment and aid combined, transaction costs also needed to be reduced. Some delegations reiterated the recommendation of the Special Body with regard to the conduct of a high-level intergovernmental meeting of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on international migration and development. Such a meeting could consider concrete actions that might be taken by sending and receiving countries to address the poverty, as well as the safety and well-being, of migrants. One delegation requested that the secretariat assist countries in conducting studies on trends in international migration and formulate strategies to develop human resources for orderly migration, taking into account changing demographic factors.

255. The Commission was informed of the adverse effects of the geography of landlocked developing countries. Their costs of conducting external trade were high, owing to their lack of access to the sea, remoteness from major international markets, limited transport infrastructure and cumbersome transit procedures. To assist those countries in overcoming their disadvantages, the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries identified the links between transport, trade and economic development in those countries.

256. The Commission recalled that the secretariat would undertake regional preparations for a midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008 in line with General Assembly resolution 61/212 of 20 December 2006 on groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. Such regional preparations, which would provide an input into the global review of the Almaty Programme of Action, should include a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action in landlocked countries of the region and involve the private sector and other stakeholders. Some delegations requested that similar reviews be conducted at both the national and subregional levels. The Commission welcomed the offer made by Kazakhstan to host an investment forum to establish efficient transit transport systems in landlocked regions.

257. The Commission noted the enormous challenges faced by small island developing States owing to the small size of their domestic markets, distance from international markets, dependence on primary commodities and vulnerability to natural disasters. In that connection, one delegation expressed continued support for the ownership efforts of such countries in strengthening their capacities, both bilaterally and through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

258. The Commission acknowledged the importance of developing countries sharing their development experiences among themselves. A few delegations urged that the secretariat facilitate that process, especially through South-South cooperation.

259. In noting the importance of the issues of energy security and access to energy services,

international migration and development, and the midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, several delegations expressed their support and called upon other countries also to support the relevant draft resolutions tabled for adoption by the Commission.

260. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for facilitating the attendance of 14 least developed countries at the eighth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries as well as the sixty-third session of the Commission.

261. The Commission also expressed appreciation to donor countries and international organizations for their support in implementing activities for the benefit of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries and territories.

262. The Commission adopted resolution 63/7 on international migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Agenda item 6
ESCAP reform

Sub-item (a)
Consideration of the external evaluation of ESCAP in the context of overall United Nations reform: key findings and proposals for action

263. The Commission had before it a document summarizing the key findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/63/19), which had been conducted in mid-2006, and a document containing the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence (E/ESCAP/63/20).

264. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the external evaluation was a key element of the continuous efforts of the secretariat in revitalizing and enhancing the impact of the work of ESCAP. He added that document E/ESCAP/63/19 contained an analysis of the possible implications that the findings of the external evaluation held for ESCAP reform, including that of the conference structure of the Commission and related programmatic and management issues.

265. In referring to the report of the High-level Panel, the Executive Secretary noted that the Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly dated 3 April 2007,[21] had signalled his broad support of the recommendations contained therein. As recommended by the High-level Panel, the Secretary-General had indicated that he would give due consideration to the establishment of an independent task force to further eliminate duplication within the United Nations system, consolidating entities where necessary.

266. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his tireless efforts in revitalizing ESCAP. It stressed the importance of reform to ensure the continued relevance and impact of the work of the regional commissions, including ESCAP. It also reiterated the important role played by the regional commissions in identifying the regional implications of the outcome of global United Nations conferences and in facilitating the implementation of related plans of action at the regional level. Overall, the Commission emphasized the need to align the ESCAP reform process with that of the United Nations at the global level; the report of the High-level Panel provided a context in that regard.

267. The Commission expressed appreciation for the outcome of the external evaluation of ESCAP. Some delegations emphasized their concurrence with specific recommendations contained in the external evaluation, including the suggestion to focus on the core mandate of ESCAP as a regional intergovernmental forum for policy dialogue.

268. A number of delegations strongly endorsed the recommendation of the external evaluation to revisit the thematic approach with a view to sharpening the focus of the secretariat's programme of work. Some delegations voiced their agreement with the recommendation of the external evaluation to make optimum use of the secretariat's potential comparative advantage in applying multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches. It was noted that that could be supported through both an adjustment to the programme structure and appropriate mechanisms within the secretariat.

269. Delegations also highlighted the recommendation on strengthening collaboration with other United Nations entities, in particular UNDP, as being of particular importance. One delegation further proposed that the annual sessions of the Commission could serve as a forum for providing guidance and coordination with respect to the regional activities of other United Nations entities, including UNDP.

270. A few delegations proposed that the secretariat's activities in the area of ICST be strengthened, in particular in relation to disaster management. One delegation was of the view that ESCAP should concentrate its resources solely on work related to policy coordination and norm-setting for consensus-building, which were areas in which ESCAP was perceived by that delegation to have a clear comparative advantage. Other delegations emphasized the useful role played by ESCAP in technical cooperation work, particularly in facilitating the sharing of good practices, providing the basis for efforts to establish norms and standards, and supporting the efforts of developing countries in building national capacity in a range of economic and social development fields. Another delegation suggested that ESCAP continue to conduct research and analysis, particularly on transboundary issues, such as transport, energy, trade and environment.

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[21] A/61/836.

271. A few delegations highlighted the need to encourage all member States to participate more actively in the intergovernmental processes of the Commission in support of member-driven focus and direction. That was considered to be of particular importance in ensuring that the needs of all members and associate members would be adequately considered by the Commission, the thematic committees and ACPR. One delegation emphasized the need for draft resolutions to be submitted well in advance of the annual sessions of the Commission and suggested that the subject matter of the draft resolutions be linked to the items on the agenda.

Sub-item (b)
Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: final review of the revised conference structure

272. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/63/21, providing an overview of key issues related to the review of the conference structure.

273. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the document contained an assessment of the current conference structure, consolidating the experiences and views expressed by the members and associate members of ESCAP through survey questionnaires and consultations. He stressed the need for members and associate members to take ownership of the Commission as their forum for policy dialogue, and for the secretariat to continue its reform efforts to better assist them by enhancing the relevance and impact of its work. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the draft resolution on the review of the conference structure of the Commission, as contained in document E/ESCAP/63/L.4, which had been submitted by the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of ACPR, in preparation for the review of the conference structure by the Commission.

274. Several delegations supported the recommendation contained in the draft resolution that the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, be deferred to its sixty-fourth session.

275. A number of delegations requested that the secretariat play an active role in facilitating further intergovernmental consultations on the issue. One delegation suggested that a review of the conference structure be followed by a review of the programme structure, and, at a later stage, by reform of the secretariat structure. That delegation also stressed the need to ensure that statistics be placed within a revised conference structure.

276. The Commission adopted resolution 63/3 on the review of the conference structure of the Commission.

Agenda item 7
Management issues

Sub-item (a)
Draft programme of work for the period 2008-2009

277. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/63/22, containing the ESCAP draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009.

278. In presenting the draft programme of work, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the document had been reviewed by ACPR in February 2007.

279. The Commission endorsed the ESCAP draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for submission to the intergovernmental review bodies at United Nations Headquarters.

280. The Commission expressed support for the secretariat's efforts to develop the programme of work in relation to overall United Nations reform initiatives, including efforts to better coordinate with other United Nations bodies in order to avoid duplication of effort.

281. Several delegations emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of the rural poor, especially in terms of assisting countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and requested that the secretariat place particular emphasis on efforts to assist the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

282. Some delegations highlighted the need for a more integrated approach to tourism, especially in its environmental, cultural and geographic aspects.

283. One delegation requested clarification concerning what impact any future changes in the conference structure of ESCAP would have on the programme of work and asked whether any information on the details of the proposed budget of ESCAP had been made available.

284. The secretariat expressed appreciation for the guidance and support provided by the Commission. In that regard, members of the Commission were asked to convey their positions to their representatives in New York in preparation for consideration by ACABQ, the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly of the ESCAP programme of work and its programme budget later in the year.

285. In response to a query on the impact of any future change in the conference structure of the Commission, the secretariat explained that, if such changes required adjustments to the programme of work, those changes could be accommodated through programme changes that could be effected in 2009. With regard to information on budget details for the biennium 2008-2009, the Commission was informed that that information would be available in General Assembly document A/62/6 (Sect. 18).

Sub-item (b)
Work of the regional institutions

286. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/63/23, E/ESCAP/63/24, E/ESCAP/63/25, E/ESCAP/63/26 and E/ESCAP/63/27, containing the reports of the ESCAP regional institutions, namely the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

287. In his introduction, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the programmes of work of the regional institutions had become an integral component of the strategic framework and programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2006-2007.[22]

288. The Commission reviewed the documents and noted the achievements of the ESCAP regional institutions over the past year. Several delegations reiterated their commitment to support the work of the regional institutions and emphasized the need to mobilize additional funds to ensure the future sustainability of those institutions.

289. The Commission noted that APCICT had been successfully inaugurated on 16 June 2006 as a subsidiary body of ESCAP in pursuance of its resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005. It also noted the important role played by the Centre in human resources development in ICT for development. One delegation recognized that the Centre was useful in providing demand-driven services to members and associate members of ESCAP. Member States were encouraged to provide the new Centre with support for the further implementation of its programme of work in order to build ICT human capacity for development.

290. It was noted by some delegations that, with technology transfer continuing to be an important vehicle for socio-economic development, APCTT had an important and dynamic role to play in the region. That was especially so given its core function as a promoter of regional and interregional cooperation in the management of innovation and transfer of technology. Some delegations noted with appreciation the role of the Centre in the establishment of information technology-powered mechanisms aimed at technology transfer for helping small and medium-sized enterprises; in the setting up of specialized information technology-based networks in biotechnology and traditional medicine; and in the promotion and strengthening of technology-transfer networks of appropriate national and private institutions. One delegation also noted that the national innovation systems project and the grass-roots innovation project had contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including those related to the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of gender equality, as well as to meeting the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization. Several delegations urged member States to support the activities of the Centre as important initiatives that could help countries to achieve key Goals and programmes.

291. Several delegations indicated that they had attached great importance to the programme of work of UNAPCAEM, and had benefited from the expertise and knowledge provided through seminars and workshops organized by the Centre, especially in the areas of agro-export competitiveness and access to regional markets through the promotion of trade fairs. One delegation expressed satisfaction with the work of the Centre and stated that it would continue to provide it with support, and would consider providing permanent office premises.

292. The Commission noted the useful work of CAPSA. One delegation stated that it had been impressed with the range of projects implemented by the Centre, which could serve as possible models in the region. Another delegation mentioned that it had benefited from the collaborative research work of the Centre, as well as the seminars and workshops it had organized, and that it looked forward to working closely with the Centre in coming years. The Commission was informed that the mandate of the Centre to alleviate poverty through secondary crops development was increasingly relevant and important. One delegation mentioned that the Centre might extend its coverage to, and identify potential areas for collaboration in, South-West Asia.

293. The representative of the Government of Japan informed the Commission that it would reduce its ODA grant aid drastically, which would result in a reduction in future funding for SIAP. Another delegation indicated that it attached great importance to the activities of SIAP, pointing out that it was the only training institute providing systematic training in official statistics for developing countries.

294. One delegation requested support for the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management (E/ESCAP/63/L.5).

295. In his concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the Commission for its support of the work of the regional institutions and thanked all Governments, including the host Governments of China, India, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea, for their contributions, both in cash and in kind, to the regional institutions.

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[22] *Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/59/6/Rev.1), Programme 15).

296. The Executive Secretary expressed satisfaction that the secretariat's efforts during past years, aimed at revitalizing the regional institutions, had begun to yield concrete results. The programmes of work of the regional institutions had become more closely aligned with the priorities of the Commission and were now fully integrated within the biennial programme of work of ESCAP. Further, funding sources for some regional institutions had become more widely diversified. The Executive Secretary expressed his intention to transfer more technical cooperation projects from ESCAP headquarters to the regional institutions in order that those institutions might better serve as operational arms of ESCAP.

Agenda item 8
Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

297. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/63/28, which provided an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2006.

298. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, in pursuance of Commission resolution 60/3 of 28 April 2004 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects, and guided by the technical cooperation strategy established in late 2003, as well as the outcome of the external evaluation of ESCAP conducted in mid-2006, the secretariat had continued its efforts to improve the impact of its technical cooperation programme.

299. The Executive Secretary emphasized that, in the context of results-based management, technical cooperation activities were planned and implemented in accordance with the expected accomplishments of the ESCAP programme of work. In line with the goal of promoting system-wide coherence, ESCAP had strengthened its strategic and operational linkages with relevant United Nations partners at the country and regional levels, in order to ensure added value in addressing technical cooperation and cross-boundary issues. Inter-agency cooperation among the United Nations regional offices in the Asian and Pacific region had been further enhanced through the mechanism of the regional coordination meetings, which were chaired by the Executive Secretary. ESCAP had also further strengthened its partnership with non-United Nations partners in order to achieve better synergies in programme planning and implementation, including with ADB and subregional organizations.

300. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the overarching goal of the technical cooperation programme of ESCAP was capacity-building for members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with particular attention given to five of the eight Goals for which ESCAP was perceived as having a comparative advantage, namely Goals 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8. Wherever possible, the special needs of the following groups of countries within the ESCAP region were taken into account: the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, the Pacific island developing countries and the countries with economies in transition.

301. ESCAP had participated in common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes led by United Nations country teams in various countries of the region in order to ensure added value in addressing technical cooperation concerns of a cross-boundary nature. With regard specifically to the Pacific subregion, the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre had developed collaborative partnerships with United Nations regional entities in the Pacific in order to formulate a regional United Nations Development Assistance Framework in support of the *Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration*.[23]

302. The Executive Secretary indicated that the promotion of regional cooperation to enhance preparedness for natural disasters was a key priority area of technical cooperation in 2006, given that the Asian and Pacific region was highly prone to natural disasters and that coordinated responses by countries were required for disaster preparedness and mitigation. The work of ESCAP in that field included the administration of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.[24]

303. The total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2006 amounted to approximately $14.5 million, from sources both within and outside the United Nations; of that amount $9.9 million came from extrabudgetary resources. In terms of delivery, the value of the technical cooperation provided by ESCAP in 2006 totalled approximately $13.5 million.

304. The Commission expressed appreciation for the report on the overview of technical cooperation activities in 2006. Many delegations commended the technical cooperation work of ESCAP and expressed strong support for the projects undertaken by ESCAP, including those implemented by the regional institutions.

305. One delegation stressed the need to avoid duplicating the work of other organizations. It was of the view that the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP should be concentrated in areas in which ESCAP had a comparative advantage. Another delegation stressed the importance of demand-driven technical cooperation activities, as highlighted in the external evaluation report on ESCAP.

306. One delegation stressed the importance of the strategic role of ESCAP in the context of its mandate to foster economic and social development in the region

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[23] Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, October 2005.

[24] See Commission resolution 62/7 of 12 April 2006.

and in the promotion of the transfer of technology and knowledge on disaster preparedness and mitigation, including studies on innovative financing instruments, such as debt swap for disaster risk reduction and global partnerships with development agencies and multilateral financing institutions for infrastructure development.

307. The Commission noted the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2007.

308. *Brunei Darussalam*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

	$
SIAP	15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

309. *China*. The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

ESCAP technical cooperation trust funds and special projects	RMB 1 000 000 and $150 000
	$
SIAP	40 000
APCTT	20 000

The delegation of China thanked all the members and associate members that had supported UNAPCAEM financially. It indicated that its target contribution of $3.8 million for UNAPCAEM for the period from 2002 to 2006 had been achieved and that, as of 2007, China would contribute $20,000 to UNAPCAEM annually. China would also contribute the rental cost of the UNAPCAEM offices in Beijing, equivalent to RMB 2,200,000, and would consider providing permanent office premises.

310. *India*. The delegation of India indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
APCTT	200 000 (equivalent in rupees)
UNAPCAEM	15 000
SIAP	15 000
CAPSA	10 000

The delegation of India added that APCTT was completing a project on capacity-building in scouting and documentation of green grass-roots innovations in the Asian and Pacific region, for which $131,734 had been provided by the Government of India in 2006. The Government would also consider financing phase II of the project on the promotion of national innovation systems in countries of the Asian and Pacific region. The delegation placed on record its appreciation to those members and associate members of ESCAP that had contributed to the activities of APCTT.

311. *Indonesia*. The delegation of Indonesia announced that its Government would make a contribution of $89,000 in cash and $67,000 in kind (equivalent in rupiah) to CAPSA in 2007.

312. *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	20 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000
SIAP	10 000
APCTT	10 000

313. *Japan*. The delegation of Japan indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work (Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund)	160 000
SIAP	1 685 280
(plus in-kind contributions, including several fellowships)	1 503 160

Furthermore, the delegation informed the Commission that, owing to budgetary constraints, a reduction in the contribution of the Government of Japan to ESCAP, including SIAP, was to be expected. It called on other members to increase their contributions.

314. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic would make the following contribution:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	2 000

315. *Macao, China*. The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

	$
SIAP	15 000
APCICT	5 000
APCTT	5 000

316. *Malaysia*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Malaysia would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	20 200
APCTT	15 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	10 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

The Government of Malaysia would provide $50,000 to the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia.

317. *Mongolia.* The delegation of Mongolia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
SIAP	5 000
ESCAP programme of work	3 000
UNAPCAEM	2 000

318. *Nepal.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Nepal would make contributions at similar levels as in previous years.

319. *Pakistan.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Pakistan would make the following contribution:

	$
SIAP	15 000

320. *Philippines.* The delegation of the Philippines indicated that, while its Government could not confirm the amounts it would contribute because budgetary procedures had not yet been concluded, it would remit financial assistance at similar levels as in previous years.

321. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea announced its Government's intention to make the following contributions:

	$
APCICT	2 000 000
Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	400 000

The delegation of the Republic of Korea also announced its intention to provide contributions to other regional institutions, including UNAPCAEM and SIAP, as well as other programmes, but could not yet indicate specific amounts.

322. *Sri Lanka.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Sri Lanka would make contributions at levels similar to those of the previous year.

323. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
CCOP	40 000
SIAP	20 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000
APCTT	15 000
Typhoon Committee	12 000
CAPSA	10 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000
Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund	2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

Furthermore, the Government of Thailand would make an additional contribution of 1,860,051 baht for the local office costs of CCOP.

324. *Viet Nam.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Viet Nam would make the same contributions as in the previous year to the ESCAP programme of work, UNAPCAEM, APCTT and CAPSA.

325. In concluding, the Executive Secretary thanked the delegations for their support of, and the pledges made for, the secretariat's technical cooperation programme in 2007. The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of that area of work, particularly as the outcomes of technical cooperation projects had provided valuable inputs into the normative and analytical work of ESCAP. Extrabudgetary contributions by donors had increased during the past several years. That positive trend was due primarily to increased contributions by developing countries in the region and was thus a reflection of the importance placed on South-South cooperation by the members and associate members of ESCAP.

326. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that the secretariat would continue to work closely with other United Nations entities, including United Nations country teams, in order to ensure that its operational activities would be conducted in the context of the country-level United Nations Development Assistance Framework. That would ensure synergies and avoid duplication, as well as promote overall system-wide coherence. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary stated that the secretariat would continue to plan its technical cooperation programme in close cooperation with the Governments of member States in order to ensure that demand-driven projects would yield concrete results for the benefit of the ESCAP membership.

Agenda item 9

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

327. The Commission had before it the report of ACPR (E/ESCAP/63/29 and Add.1), which had been introduced by the representative of Indonesia and ACPR Rapporteur.

328. The ACPR Rapporteur noted that the close relationship between the Governments of the members of the Commission and the secretariat had been strengthened during the previous year through frequent dialogue and information exchange. Since the previous session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee had conducted 10 regular sessions, 4 special sessions, 1 informal session, 5 meetings of the Working Group to prepare for the review by the Commission of the conference structure and 6 meetings of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions.

329. The Advisory Committee had deliberated extensively on the preparations for the sixty-third session of the Commission, including its agenda, timetable, dates, venue and theme topic. A dialogue had also been initiated on the format to be used for Commission session reports.

330. A key topic for discussion had been the external evaluation of ESCAP, which had been carried out in June 2006. Within the context of overall United Nations reform, the outcome of the evaluation and its possible implications for the conference and programme structure of the Commission had been debated at regular sessions, as well as during the ACPR retreat held in November 2006 and by the Working Group to prepare for the review by the Commission of the conference structure.

331. The Advisory Committee had also reviewed the preparations for, and outcomes of, the third session of each of the three thematic Committees, which had been held in the period from September to December 2006. The review had resulted in a strong call for increased participation by representatives of members and associate members of the Commission, possibly through increased focus on the agenda for those sessions. Based on the Advisory Committee's recommendation, evaluation survey questionnaires had been modified to enable informed decision-making for the purpose of making further improvements.

332. The Commission expressed appreciation for the extensive work carried out by the Advisory Committee during the previous year and emphasized the important and unique role of the Committee in providing a forum for continuous dialogue between Governments and the secretariat in support of member-driven and participatory approaches.

333. A number of delegations proposed that the role of the Advisory Committee be strengthened by expanding its programme of work and enhancing the involvement and responsiveness of the secretariat and Committee members alike. Delegations further noted the importance of continued involvement by the Committee in consultations on ESCAP reform, including on the review of the conference structure of the Commission and follow-up to the external evaluation.

334. One delegation proposed that the role of the Advisory Committee be expanded with regard to reviewing the programme budget, expenditures and the programme of work of the secretariat.

335. The Executive Secretary concluded by expressing his gratitude for the excellent report and for the support and wise guidance of all members of the Advisory Committee, which had benefited him throughout his tenure as Executive Secretary.

Agenda item 10
Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

336. The Commission had before it the reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), the Mekong River Commission, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted for information under four notes by the secretariat, E/ESCAP/63/30, E/ESCAP/63/31, E/ESCAP/63/32 and E/ESCAP/63/33 respectively.

337. A presentation was made by a representative of the Typhoon Committee pertaining to the activities carried out by its members in 2006, including important achievements, major issues and future directions related to the meteorological, hydrological and disaster prevention and preparedness components, as well as training and research. That presentation also included information pertaining to the relocation of the Typhoon Committee secretariat to Macao, China, and the appointment of the new Secretary of the Typhoon Committee.

338. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the work and achievements of the regional intergovernmental organizations and recognized the importance of their work. In that connection, condolences were expressed to the Government of the Philippines on the recent demise of Mr. Roman L. Kintanar, one of the founders of the Typhoon Committee and a former President of WMO. Among Mr. Kintanar's many achievements had been the strengthening of the Typhoon Committee over the preceding 39 years.

339. One delegation expressed appreciation for the work of CCOP, especially its work on the Communities and Small-scale Mining in Asia project.

340. One delegation expressed the hope that the relevant regional intergovernmental organizations would make further efforts in promoting regional prevention and preparedness with regard to the protection of the environment and poverty reduction in terms of disasters in order to promote the economic and social development of the region.

Agenda item 11
Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

341. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/63/34. It decided that the sixty-fourth session would be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, tentatively, in April/May 2008.

342. Although the Commission agreed on the following as the theme topic for the sixty-fourth session: "Energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", with the inclusion of elements of "innovation and competitiveness", the exact title of the theme topic would be finalized in consultation with ACPR.

Agenda item 12
Other matters

343. In highlighting the contributions and distinguished service that Mr. Kim Hak-Su had rendered

in his capacity as Executive Secretary of ESCAP over the preceding seven years, one delegation requested support for a draft resolution recognizing the significant contributions of the Executive Secretary (E/ESCAP/63/L.12/Rev.1). The Commission adopted resolution 63/2 on recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Agenda item 13
Adoption of the report of the Commission

344. The report of the Commission on its sixty-third session was adopted unanimously on 23 May 2007.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

A. Resolutions

Resolution 63/1

Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific[25]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Adopts the following declaration:

Almaty Declaration

1. We, the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, have gathered in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007 for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

2. We recognize the historic significance of the present session of the Commission, held for the first time in Central Asia, in the year that marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Commission.

3. We celebrate a period spanning six decades in which membership in the Commission has grown from ten in 1947 to sixty-two today, encompassing a region that is home to two thirds of humankind and is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures and economic and social systems.

4. On this occasion, we express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the sixty-third session of the Commission in Almaty, and to the municipal authorities of Almaty for their kindness and hospitality.

5. We are aware that the sixty-third session will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary, and wish therefore to commend the Executive Secretary for his vision and dynamic leadership in re-engineering and revitalizing the Commission.

6. We recall Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, which recognizes the regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations, fulfilling norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions, as well as providing an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues and for building consensus within their respective regions.

7. In recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[26] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[27] we reaffirm our commitment to enhance the authority and efficiency of the United Nations, as well as its capacity to address effectively the full range of challenges we face in the present era of rapid socio-economic development.

8. We also recall the Shanghai Declaration,[28] a landmark resolution adopted at the birthplace of the Commission in Shanghai, China, which outlines the overall vision for the Commission in reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

9. In reaffirming the vital role of the Commission in fostering regional and subregional cooperation and in assisting members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we commit ourselves to supporting the mandated functions of the Commission as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the region.

10. We are convinced that the Commission is well placed to expand the scope of regional cooperation through the strengthening of linkages with subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

11. In a region that hosts the world's most dynamic economies, we note with concern the widening disparities between and within countries and therefore resolve to strengthen South-South cooperation because it offers viable opportunities for the collective pursuit of sustainable economic growth and development.

12. In recognizing the particular development challenges confronting Central Asian countries, all of which are landlocked and in need of diversifying their economies and tapping their potential as a transport hub for the Asian and European continents, we resolve to accelerate the integration of Central Asia into the regional economy of Asia and the Pacific through, among other things, the strengthening of the United

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[25] See paras. 183 to 247 above.

[26] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[27] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 18 September 2005.

[28] Commission resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004.

Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

13. We are determined to build an Asia-Pacific century, as an epoch during which poverty is eliminated and equal opportunities become available for every woman and man to live healthy, peaceful and productive lives.

14. Hence, we resolve to support the efforts of the Commission in renewing itself towards fulfilling our vision of an Asia-Pacific century.

15. We therefore request the Executive Secretary to reinvigorate the role of the Commission as a regional development centre, by identifying and advocating innovative approaches to address sustainable development issues and coordinating region-wide policy dialogues, in close collaboration with United Nations country teams, in order to respond effectively to the changing needs of the region.

16. We also request the Executive Secretary to strengthen the leadership of the Commission in promoting South-South cooperation as a key instrument for enhancing development assistance in the region.

17. We further request the Executive Secretary to enhance the visibility of the Commission and increase understanding of its role in policy advocacy and consensus-building, as the body uniquely representative of the Asian and Pacific region.

18. On this historic occasion, we pledge our strong and continuing support for the leadership role of the Commission in catalysing regional cooperation, in fostering an Asia-Pacific century and in creating a shared future based upon our common humanity.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/2

Recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission[29]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Aware that the sixty-third session of the Commission will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary,

Recognizing the contributions and distinguished service that Mr. Kim has rendered in his role as head of the Commission secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the improvements that Mr. Kim has brought to the work of the Commission, in particular on the revitalization of the conference, programme and secretariat structures,

Acknowledging the support that Mr. Kim has given to the further strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation and integration among the members and associate members of the Commission, as well as to the promotion of interregional cooperation,

Acknowledging also his efforts to strengthen coordination and cooperation among members of the United Nations system at the regional level,

Acknowledging further his efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with diverse development entities in order to address emerging regional development challenges,

1. *Wishes* to extend a profound tribute to Mr. Kim for his contribution to the work of the secretariat during his years as Executive Secretary;

2. *Expresses* its gratitude for his leadership in raising the visibility of the secretariat in its servicing of the Commission as a unique intergovernmental forum with universal membership in the Asian and Pacific region;

3. *Conveys* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its deep appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Kim in support of the economic and social advancement of the Asian and Pacific region;

4. *Extends* its sincere wishes for his continued good health and happiness in the years ahead.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/3

Review of the conference structure of the Commission[30]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995, 52/1 of 24 April 1996 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof on the requirement for a review to be conducted at its sixty-third session,

Recalling further its resolution 61/1 of 18 May 2005 on the midterm review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates,[31]

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[29] See para. 343 above.

[30] See paras. 272 to 276 above.

[31] A/60/733 and Corr.1.

Recognizing the need to ensure that the conference structure of the Commission is kept in line with the process of overall United Nations reform,

Taking note of the report on the external evaluation of ESCAP: key findings and proposals for action,[32] and the report on the implementation of Commission resolution 58/1,[33]

Mindful of the desire of members and associate members of the Commission to maximize the effectiveness of its conference structure,

1. *Decides* to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the outcomes of those consultations to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/4

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region[34]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Taking note with appreciation of the report entitled "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region: regional road map to 2015",[35] including a regional road map that identifies regional-level actions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Taking note also with appreciation of the report entitled "Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific",[36] which provides an analysis of the multiple linkages between economic growth, the development of effective health systems and the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the need for strengthening health systems in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the regional road map for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,[35] and invites all members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region to take this into account in developing and/or implementing their own national development strategies towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Takes note also with appreciation* of the existing regional tripartite partnership on the Millennium Development Goals, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as various activities undertaken under the tripartite initiative, such as the holding of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals and a series of reports published by those bodies, which assess progress towards achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue developing recommendations for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the form of a regional road map, by developing and refining existing elements and building also on related efforts or processes, including the outcomes of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals, in close coordination with other United Nations entities, regional development banks and financial institutions;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session a sub-item entitled "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region" under the agenda item "Policy issues for the ESCAP region", and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/5

Midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries[37]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, limited border crossings and transit dependence, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, resulting in prohibitive transaction costs, continues to adversely affect the overall growth and socio-economic development of landlocked developing countries,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus,[38] which recognized the importance of enhanced and predictable access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries, and called on relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to reinforce the support for trade-related training, capacity- and institution-building and trade-supporting services,

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[32] E/ESCAP/63/19.

[33] E/ESCAP/63/21.

[34] See paras. 57 to 76 above.

[35] E/ESCAP/63/2.

[36] E/ESCAP/63/4.

[37] See paras. 201 to 218 above.

[38] Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

Recalling also the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[39] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[40]

Recalling Commission resolution 61/11 of 18 May 2005 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, reaffirming its continued support for the full and effective implementation of the specific actions undertaken in the five priority areas agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action, and taking note of the report on the summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction,[41]

Reiterating its continuous support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/212 of 20 December 2006 on groups of countries in specific situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, and its decision to hold a midterm review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008, which reaffirms the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, calling for a successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha round of trade negotiations and emphasizing that the intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, should be effectively utilized for the midterm review,

1. *Encourages* landlocked and transit developing countries to undertake substantive preparation towards the midterm review;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with regional and global partners, as appropriate:

(a) To further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action[39] in the programme of work of the secretariat in order to further strengthen the support that the secretariat provides to landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to develop bilateral, subregional and regional cooperative arrangements for establishing efficient transit transport systems, as called for in the Almaty Programme of Action;

(b) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to develop transit transport cooperation and to connect with existing and future transport networks in the region under the framework, especially, of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network[42] and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network;[43]

(c) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in their process of acceding to the World Trade Organization in order to promote their more inclusive participation in the global economy;

(d) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in negotiating and implementing trade agreements for enhancing market access that are consistent with those of the World Trade Organization;

(e) To strengthen capacity-building activities for government agencies of landlocked and transit countries in the field of trade facilitation in order to establish a transparent, consistent and predictable environment for conducting international trade;

(f) To assist landlocked and transit countries in their efforts to streamline, simplify and standardize documents and procedures, so as to reduce trade transaction costs;

(g) To continue the work of developing effective indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the region, in close coordination with relevant organizations and in particular the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and to implement pilot projects, subject to available resources, in order to apply the methodology in selected landlocked subregions of Asia and the Pacific in view of the midterm review;

(h) To provide, within the mandate of the Executive Secretary, necessary support in the preparatory process for the midterm review, including the thematic meetings on transit transport infrastructure development, and trade and trade facilitation;

(i) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the progress achieved in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action at the regional level, with a list of the deliverables needed for the further acceleration of the implementation process;

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[39] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

[40] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

[41] E/ESCAP/63/9.

[42] See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

[43] Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

3. *Decides* to take up the issue of the review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action under the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. The regional review should be preceded, where necessary, by subregional and national preparations.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/6

Implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States[44]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the important role of energy for sustainable development in order to reduce poverty in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asian and Pacific region,

Expressing concern over the sustained high and volatile energy prices and noting that regional cooperation initiatives could supplement national efforts in addressing energy security and access issues,

Acknowledging ongoing initiatives by regional and subregional organizations and the Commission on Sustainable Development on energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the need to enhance national capacities to assess strategic directions to improve energy security and widening access to energy services in a collaborative manner,

Recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[45] and the outcomes of major United Nations summits and international and regional conferences,

Also recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[46]

Further recalling Commission resolution 62/11 of 12 April 2006 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to assist the least developed countries, where appropriate, in the formulation of appropriate development strategies and policies in line with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[47]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action,[48] and Assembly resolution 60/208 of 22 December 2005, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the Almaty Programme of Action and requested the United Nations system organizations to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Also recalling Commission resolution 61/11 of 18 May 2005 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Further recalling the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[49] and Commission resolution 62/9 of 12 April 2006 on its regional follow-up,

Recalling Commission resolution 61/9 of 18 May 2005 on the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in the region by providing technical assistance in the realization of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010,[50] and relevant national strategies and action,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[47]

2. *Notes* the outcomes of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries at its eighth session[51] and endorses its conclusions and recommendations regarding intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development and to widen access to energy services in least developed and landlocked developing countries;

3. *Commits* itself to considering the formation of a special task force on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to develop strategies and measures to address energy security and access issues collectively;

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[44] See paras. 220 to 232 above.

[45] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[46] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

[47] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[48] Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

[49] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[50] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.31), annex II.

[51] See E/ESCAP/63/18.

4. *Invites* Governments, donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, international and subregional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, in accordance with rules and procedures of the United Nations, to consider actively contributing towards the implementation of the present resolution through financial contributions and technical cooperation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) To facilitate the establishment of a cooperation framework on energy security and widening access to energy services for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States by:

(i) Exploring the possibility of raising extrabudgetary resources;

(ii) Holding policy dialogues among least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(iii) Undertaking policy studies on energy security as well as on widening access to energy services, and the role of renewable energy;

(iv) Synergizing or linking, wherever possible, with other broader energy cooperation frameworks, such as the proposed trans-Asian energy system;

(b) To explore the establishment of a special programme on energy-related infrastructure and to identify the best usage of energy available in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in support of the above-mentioned cooperation framework that would be aimed at the following:

(i) Strengthening national capacity for energy planning and management to enhance the sustainability of the energy sector;

(ii) Promoting intercountry cooperation to exchange information, experiences and models, and good practices on renewable energy technology and its applications with a view to reducing poverty;

(iii) Exploring the prospects for renewable solar and wind energy available on soft terms from international donors and non-governmental organizations for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(iv) Mainstreaming the concerns of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States into subregional and regional initiatives on energy trade and cooperation for the benefit of rural populations;

(c) To report to the Commission on the progress of implementation of the present resolution at its sixty-fifth session, with the final report to be presented at its sixty-eighth session.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/7

International migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States[52]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[53]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[54] acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development, and recognizing the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration[55] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[56]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[57] and 60/208 of 22 December 2005, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the commitment to the Almaty

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[52] See paras. 250 to 262 above.

[53] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[54] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

[55] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[56] Ibid., chap. II.

[57] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

Programme of Action and requested the United Nations system organizations to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recalling also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[58]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 61/208 of 20 December 2006 on international migration and development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration[59] adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Migrants' Remittances, held in Cotonou, Benin, on 9 and 10 February 2006,

Taking note of its resolution 61/7 of 18 May 2005,

Welcoming the convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and the high-level and broad participation that provided an opportunity for discussing the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development,

Welcoming also the ongoing efforts of Governments in the area of regional and interregional cooperation and regional consultative processes, where they exist, on migration and encouraging the consideration of development dimensions in such processes, where appropriate,

Taking note of the work of the Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, consisting of United Nations agencies and the intergovernmental organization concerned, with regard to enhancing cooperation, promoting synergies and minimizing duplication in migration-related programmes and projects in the region,

Reaffirming its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[56] the Almaty Programme of Action[57] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[58]

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Recognizing the need for coherent national development strategies aimed at poverty reduction and effective implementation of policies leading to economic growth and sustainable development,

1. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To identify ways and means to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and to reduce its negative effects;

(b) To incorporate international migration issues into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies;

(c) To strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) To ensure that the activities of the secretariat, consistent with its programme of work, take into account the special needs related to migration issues of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[56] the Almaty Programme of Action[57] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[58]

(b) To analyse and compile relevant information, as available, on international migration, with a view to identifying key trends, emerging issues and opportunities and challenges in both sending and receiving countries, especially in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(c) To continue to provide a forum, in the context of the current conference structure of the Commission, for dialogue among members and associate members of the Commission, with particular focus on sending, transit and receiving countries, and to facilitate discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with socio-economic development and the best practices for the provision of social protection and basic health services to all international migrant workers;

(d) To convene a high-level meeting on international migration and development in close coordination with related international organizations on migration, preferably in 2008;

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[58] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[59] A/61/230, annex.

(e) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, and the final report at its sixty-eighth session.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/8

Sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific[60]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[61] in particular the health-related development goals,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[62] adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, including the commitments on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues,

Recalling further that the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirms the importance of global partnership for development as well as of the primary responsibility of each country for its own development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming its resolutions 60/2 of 28 April 2004 and 61/12 of 18 May 2005, and recalling the Declaration of Alma-Ata, adopted by the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held from 6 to 12 September 1978,

Taking note of its resolution 61/7 of 18 May 2005,

Recognizing that the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage will contribute to sustainable development and ensuring social equality and better health for people,

Noting that, in its resolution 60/35 of 30 November 2005 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health, the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, as appropriate, to cooperate closely with member States, the private sector and civil society, when requested, in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA58.33 of 25 May 2005 on sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance,

Concerned that a large number of people lack access to basic health care in the region, and that catastrophic health-care expenditures can impoverish individuals and increase the number of poor and vulnerable people in the region,

Concerned also with the deficiencies in infrastructure and human resources existing in the health sector in many countries of the region,

Noting that health financing and delivery systems in many countries in the region need to be developed further in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage, while providing mechanisms for financial risk protection,

Recognizing the important role of State legislative and executive bodies in further reforming health-financing systems as well as the importance of the private sector in financing and delivering health care with a view to achieving universal coverage,

Acknowledging that a number of countries have taken steps to augment health financing, despite significant resource constraints,

Recognizing that the decision on a benefit package requires evidence on cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of resource use in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage,

Considering that the choice of a health-financing system should be made within the particular context of each country,

Taking note of the report on the development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific,[63]

1. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To implement fully the commitments relating to health as reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[62] while acknowledging increases in financial assistance being made by some developed countries, and to consider further mobilization of additional financial resources;

(b) To develop sustainable health-financing systems for their citizens to move towards universal health-care coverage as a means of attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[61]

(c) To recognize that options for the provision of sustainable health financing need to be considered in the light of the particular sociocultural, economic and political context of each country;

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[60] See paras. 96 to 129 above.

[61] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[62] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

[63] E/ESCAP/63/4.

(d) To work to strengthen infrastructure and human resources for health in order to provide accessible, equitable and adequate health care for all citizens, while addressing disparities in health-care services within countries;

(e) To share best experiences on methods of health financing within the particular context of each country, to work towards the goal of universal coverage effectively;

(f) To share experiences in the financing of health-care delivery systems, including those relating to rural areas, including clinic services, and the services of public health workers and midwives;

(g) To consider inviting national stakeholders and development partners, as appropriate, to cooperate on the development of national strategies to move towards the achievement of universal coverage;

(h) To ensure that health-financing systems include a method for prepayment of financial contributions for health care, while taking into account payment capacities, with a view to sharing risk among the population and avoiding catastrophic health-care expenditures and impoverishment of individuals as a result of seeking care;

(i) To ensure that external funds for specific health programmes or activities are managed and organized in a way that contributes to the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the health system as a whole and that they address national priorities;

(j) To build up and strengthen capacity in the design of benefit packages, taking into account cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of resource use, in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with relevant organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank:

(a) To assist members and associate members in their capacity-building on the provision of health financing with a view to achieving the goal of universal coverage and providing a platform for regional cooperation and exchange of experiences;

(b) To continue to analyse the situation of health financing within the overall development policies and planning of members and associate members, and its implications for the economic and social well-being of their citizens, including the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage, and outline the options available to countries in the region;

(c) To provide technical support, upon request, in the monitoring of progress towards the goal of universal coverage;

(d) To organize and invite interested members to consultations at a senior level to discuss sustainable health-care financing in the region towards achieving universal coverage of health services;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/9

Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011)[64]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 10 and 11 November 2006, which adopted the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for phase I (2007-2011), and the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific,[65]

Recognizing the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth in output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the crucial role of efficient, reliable and cost-effective transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in supporting continued growth through improved competitiveness of exports and reduced cost of imports,

Convinced that, in order to support the rapid changes in output, trade and investment, there is a need for the implementation of regional transport policy through more frequent dialogue between countries,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference on Transport for the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport as a formal regional mechanism to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interaction in order to address emerging issues,

Noting also that growth has taken place mainly in coastal areas that have well-developed regional and interregional maritime transport linkages with international sourcing and production networks,

Convinced of the important role of "dry ports" in the development of an international integrated intermodal system and their potential to become centres for economic development, particularly in landlocked countries and wider domestic hinterlands,

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[64] See paras. 201 to 219 above.

[65] See E/ESCAP/63/13.

Welcoming the successful regional cooperation that led to the formalization of the intergovernmental agreements on the Asian Highway[66] and Trans-Asian Railway[67] networks, which are the major building blocks in the development of an international integrated intermodal transport system, which the region needs in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization,

Recognizing that the full benefits of an international integrated intermodal transport system will not be realized unless the physical infrastructure issues, including road, rail, inland waterways, maritime transport, dry ports, airports, seaports and information and communication technology, as well as the non-physical issues, including multimodal transport operations, customs clearance, and banking and other commercial networks, are addressed comprehensively,

Deeming that an effective approach to the realization of an integrated transport system is through the operationalization of priority transport corridors and routes within the system,

Noting that the issues relating to the identification of any national shortfalls in the areas of transport security and the provision of assistance upon request to address them are being dealt with by the International Maritime Organization, the World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization,

Recognizing the need to mobilize financial resources and improve organizational arrangements, as deemed appropriate by participating members and associate members, for the development of the necessary physical and non-physical infrastructure,

Stressing that a long-term regional transport development strategy can promote regional cooperation and development effectively, as demonstrated by the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1997-2006,[68]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[69] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[70] in which Heads of State and Government reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit, described as the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing in this context the important contribution of transport infrastructure and services in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[71]

Encouraged by the profound impact of the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,[72] which resulted in the active and constructive participation of members and associate members of the Commission in promoting regional cooperation for the development of transport infrastructure and services,

Concerned about the human suffering, social implications and heavy burden on the poor of road accidents as well as their impact on national economic development, with the costs being estimated to be in the range of 1 to 3 per cent of a country's annual gross national product,

Recognizing that road safety is a public policy issue of major concern that requires a strong political commitment and effective interventions if road traffic fatalities, injuries and related human suffering are to be reduced significantly,

1. *Resolves* that, in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization effectively, respective government authorities will develop and implement transport policies at the national, subregional and regional levels in line with the following principles:

(a) Formulating integrated policies and decision-making frameworks based on strategic assessments of economic, environmental, social and poverty-related aspects;

(b) Developing an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system that contributes to the long-term objective of regional cooperation in support of production and distribution networks and international trade;

(c) Giving priority to investment in the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, including intermodal interfaces to link them with water and air transport networks;

(d) Promoting the development of economic and logistic activities at intermodal interfaces, particularly at production and consumption centres, and around seaports and dry ports;

(e) Mobilizing financial resources for the development of the transport system, its maintenance and operation from all possible sources, including private-sector partnerships and other financial arrangements;

2. *Endorses* the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the

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[66] See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

[67] Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

[68] Commission resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995, annex.

[69] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[70] See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

[71] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[72] E/ESCAP/1249, chap. IV.

Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Reiterates* its support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action[71] for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries;

4. *Encourages* members participating in the development of the Asian Highway network that have not already done so to accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network;[66]

5. *Encourages* members and associate members to continue to act upon the recommendations contained in the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific;[73]

6. *Encourages* members participating in the development of the Trans-Asian Railway network that have not already done so to sign, accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network;[67]

7. *Encourages* members and associate members to place increasing attention on the operationalization of priority transport corridors and routes;

8. *Invites* international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to consider providing further financial and technical support for the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network and the Asian Highway network;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist regional members and associate members in realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, which is needed in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization;

(b) To accord priority to the implementation of phase I (2007-2011) of the Regional Action Programme, including the mobilization and deployment of resources;

(c) To undertake a detailed study on the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport, including its organization and format, and submit the findings to the Committee on Managing Globalization at its fourth session and the Commission at its sixty-fourth session for their consideration;

(d) To undertake a study which, based upon the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks as well as major Euro-Asian and other interregional transport links, defines priority transport corridors, and good practices that could be implemented on the corridors and proposes specific measures, for example memorandums of understanding, that lead to the effective development of those corridors;

(e) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations and multilateral agencies as well as subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization;

(f) To collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and international organizations and, if necessary, determine other possible innovative sources of financing for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme;

(g) To assess and evaluate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and submit reports with recommendations to the Commission at its sixty-fifth and sixty-eighth sessions;

(h) To carry out in 2011 an evaluation of the implementation of phase I of the Regional Action Programme as an important and necessary step in the preparation of phase II (2012-2016).

Annex

REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2007-2011

Over the past decade, ESCAP member countries have benefited substantially from the process of globalization. Many of these successes have been achieved through improved transportation.

The Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, formalized through the related intergovernmental agreements,[74,75] are the major building blocks for the realization of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system as a long-term vision for the development of the transport sector in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization.

In order to move forward, there is a need to comprehensively address the issues arising and meld together the physical and non-physical infrastructure issues, including road, rail, inland waterways, maritime transport, dry ports, airports, sea ports and information and communication technology, as well as the non-physical issues, including multimodal transport operations, customs clearance, banking and other commercial networks, thereby improving infrastructure and cross-border and transit facilitation measures and logistics systems, in the development of an international integrated intermodal transport system.

In the process of doing this, many of the challenges of globalization need to be addressed. Managing these challenges requires a collaborative effort among member countries and United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, subregional organizations and professional associations involved in transport.

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[73] E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. IV.

[74] See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

[75] Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

In the implementation of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,[76] the ESCAP secretariat has worked closely with: (a) several key United Nations agencies, including ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, ICAO, ILO, IMO, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UPU and the World Bank; (b) intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, APT, EBRD, IDB and OSJD; (c) subregional organizations, such as ASEAN, ECO, IGC-TRACECA, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, SAARC, SCO and TRADP; (d) non-governmental organizations, such as IRF, IRU and UIC; and (e) other collaborating institutions, including AITD, CPD, IDI, KMI and KOTI. Further cooperation and coordinated action between ESCAP and these organizations would greatly enhance the prospect of successful implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development, 2007-2011.

1. POLICY GUIDANCE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL

Policy direction at the ministerial level is paramount to the successful development of mutually beneficial regional transport policies and infrastructure in the Asian and Pacific region, to meet common economic and social interests. Given the rapid pace of change in the region and the need for timely policy direction to achieve progress in transport,[77] it may be time for ministers to establish a formal regional mechanism to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interactions to address these issues.

Establishing a regular meeting or forum of Asian ministers of transport, as exists in Europe, where the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and some member States act as the secretariat of the European Committee of Ministers of Transport, could further assist ESCAP members and associate members in their efforts to cooperate in improving transport in and across the region. The European Committee of Ministers of Transport could prove a useful template in this regard. A similar body, adapted to suit the Asian and Pacific region, could hold meetings every two or three years, possibly with ESCAP acting as its secretariat.

1.1 A forum of Asian ministers of transport

Immediate objective: to promote regional cooperation and policy leadership at the ministerial level for the advancement of transport as a key to regional development

Outputs:

1. Regular scheduled meetings of Asian ministers of transport
2. Ministerial consideration and direction to transport policies in the region

Indicators of achievement:

1. High level of participation in meetings of Asian ministers of transport
2. Documented decisions by transport ministers leading to a greater degree of coordination and consistency between countries on issues of mutual benefit

2. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

In order to realize new opportunities of economic and trade development brought by globalization, countries require efficient transport infrastructure and services to access regional and global markets. While much progress has been achieved in developing regional transport networks, increased coordination among different modes of transport will allow countries to link more efficiently to international production networks and to international markets.

2.1 Promotion and development/upgrading of the Asian Highway network

Immediate objective: to promote the Asian Highway network through coordinated planning for development of national road infrastructure, including upgrading of the network

Outputs:

1. Meetings of the Working Group on the Asian Highway
2. Updated Asian Highway maps and database
3. Investment studies on Asian Highway sections and linkages undertaken in collaboration with member States and investment forums, with the participation of international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, international organizations and the private sector, for the development and upgrading of the Asian Highway network

Indicators of achievement:

1. Expansion of the Asian Highway network through the addition of new sections and the upgrading of the network by participating countries and by additional countries ratifying/accepting/approving/acceding to the agreement
2. National highway planning recognizing the Asian Highway network as a priority and providing inputs for the regional database
3. Increase in investment to develop and upgrade the Asian Highway network and in the length and capacity of the

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[76] E/ESCAP/1249, chap. IV, annex I.

[77] ESCAP meetings of ministers of transport are held at intervals of at least five years.

proportion of the network that meets Asian Highway minimum standards

2.2 Promotion, development and operationalization of Trans-Asian Railway network

Immediate objective: to promote the Trans-Asian Railway network for the efficient and sustainable movement of goods and people

Outputs:

1. Meetings of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network
2. Cooperation among railway organizations on the Trans-Asian Railway routes and operationalization of rail transport services
3. Updated Trans-Asian Railway maps and the establishment of a database
4. Investment studies on the Trans-Asian Railway sections and linkages, including "missing links", undertaken in collaboration with member States and investment forums with the participation of international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, international organizations and the private sector for the development and upgrading of the Trans-Asian Railway network

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries signing/ratifying/accepting/approving/acceding to the Trans-Asian Railway Agreement and participating in the Working Group
2. Number of demonstration runs of container block-trains and international train services operating on Trans-Asian Railway routes
3. Number of countries providing inputs for the regional database
4. Increased investment to develop and upgrade routes of the Trans-Asian Railway network, including construction of missing links

2.3 Integrated intermodal approach to transport planning and infrastructure development

Immediate objective: to promote an integrated approach to transport planning as an integral part of an international integrated intermodal transport system for Asia and a focus for economic and trade development

Outputs:

1. Intermodal studies and forecasts to provide a regional context for national transport planning and regional policy development
2. Policy guidelines for the development of inland container depots and dry ports and information and communication infrastructure for an integrated intermodal transport network
3. Investment forums to establish networks to improve the exchange of information on the business and investment environment, ideas and experiences
4. Joint meetings of the working groups on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks
5. Capacity-building through seminars, workshops and training activities

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries participating in undertaking intermodal studies and guidelines
2. National plans reflecting proposals to develop intermodal transport infrastructure
3. Increased financing opportunities being explored by member States, international financing institutions and other stakeholders, including the private sector
4. Positive response from member countries participating in meetings, with documented exchange of experiences and best practices
5. Countries using outputs from seminars and workshops in the development of national integrated transport strategies and plans

2.4 Management and maintenance of transport infrastructure

Immediate objective: to improve national capacities in the management and maintenance of transport infrastructure

Outputs:

1. Publication of guidelines, including examples of regional best practices on the management and maintenance of transport infrastructure
2. Capacity-building through seminars, workshops and training activities

Indicators of achievement:

1. Positive response from member countries and other readers to outputs and inclusion of proposals in national policy statements
2. Countries implementing ESCAP guidelines

3. TRANSPORT FACILITATION

The smooth and efficient movement of goods and people across borders in the region requires close collaboration between ministries and agencies and support from all stakeholders, including the private sector. Multilateral legal instruments relating to international transport can provide a mechanism for simplifying and harmonizing the documentation, formalities and procedures of border crossing. While progress is being made in these areas, much could be done to further reduce the delays and costs associated with border crossings in the region.

3.1 Facilitation coordinating mechanisms

Immediate objective: to promote collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport from the public and private sectors for transport facilitation

Outputs:

1. Guidelines on establishing or strengthening national facilitation coordinating mechanisms refined and published
2. Workshops, seminars and advisory services for establishing or strengthening national facilitation coordinating mechanisms
3. Regional and subregional fora of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries applying the guidelines on national facilitation coordinating mechanisms
2. National facilitation coordinating bodies established or strengthened
3. Exchange of experiences and good practices between national facilitation coordinating bodies documented

3.2 Legal frameworks for international transport

Immediate objective: to assist countries in putting in place suitable legal regimes to facilitate international land transport

Outputs:

1. Study on the implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and the possible inclusion of additional conventions
2. Workshops, seminars and advisory services on accession to, and implementation of, major international facilitation conventions
3. Guidelines on the formulation and implementation of agreements for international land transport
4. Meetings, training courses and studies on the formulation and implementation of subregional agreements on the facilitation of international land transport

Indicators of achievement:

1. Adoption of proposals for updating Commission resolution 48/11
2. Increase in the number of countries acceding to major international transport facilitation conventions
3. Countries applying the guidelines on the formulation and implementation of facilitation agreements
4. Countries signing or acceding to subregional facilitation instruments

3.3 Application of new technologies

Immediate objective: to promote the simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology

Outputs:

1. Study on the impact of new technologies, including information and communication technology, on border controls and international transport
2. Workshops and seminars on the application of new technologies to border controls and international transport

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries applying the findings of the study on the impact of new technologies
2. Countries applying new technologies to border controls and international transport

3.4 Tools for the identification of bottlenecks and the monitoring of the impact of facilitation measures

Immediate objective: to assist countries in identifying, isolating and addressing the major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport

Outputs:

1. Refinement of facilitation diagnostic and monitoring tools
2. Workshops, seminars and training courses on the application of facilitation diagnostic and monitoring tools

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries employing the refined facilitation diagnostic and monitoring tools
2. Time and cost analysis of routes and border crossings for international transport undertaken by member countries

3.5 Transport operator skills upgrading

Immediate objective: to assist countries in upgrading the capacity of professionals to undertake international land transport operations

Outputs:

1. Promotion and regional networking of national training centres for international land transport
2. Content of training courses and materials for international land transport recommended
3. Training of trainers courses on international land transport

Indicators of achievement:

1. Centres for international land transport participating in the network
2. Centres applying the recommended training course content and materials
3. Delivery of training courses by national and international centres

4. TRANSPORT LOGISTICS

The logistics industry in some ESCAP member countries is still at a relatively early stage of development, and there are lessons to be learned from both successful and unsuccessful operations from both within and outside the region. These lessons include the practical implementation of logistics, integrated infrastructure and policy development, the removal of impediments, information and communication technology, maximizing the benefits of foreign investment and managing changes in the logistics industry.

The lack of common standards guiding the operation of freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers impedes their development. It is therefore important that Governments and industry work together to effectively manage the changes that will facilitate improved performance. The development of an efficient national logistics system can be encouraged through the sharing of the knowledge and experiences of the private sector in national, regional and international forums. This, together with appropriate capacity-building programmes, would also lead to improved professionalism and skills within the industry. Research needs to be undertaken on how logistics services can be extended inland through corridors which would create the conditions for the formation of industrial clusters.

4.1 Guidelines for the operation of logistics service providers

Immediate objective: to create common standards for the operation of logistics service providers and to harmonize the approaches of regional member countries with a view to raising the profile of freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics services providers within the transport industry

Outputs:

1. The publication of codes of conduct and minimum standards based on best practices and experience in registration requirements and liability regimes for the operations of freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics services providers

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries incorporating aspects of the codes and standards in the rules of their national industry associations and national regulations and legislation

4.2 Development of logistics service centres

Immediate objective: to promote the development of efficient logistics service centres and clusters throughout the region

Outputs:

1. The publication of research and study findings on corridor development and best practices for the operation of logistics service centres

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries participating in research and contributing information on latest developments and best practices for the development of logistics service centres

4.3 Promoting partnerships and exchange of experiences within the region

Immediate objective: to create local, subregional, regional and international networks to strengthen the capacity of the logistics services industry to create partnerships, to share experiences and to improve its competitiveness

Outputs:

1. Regional meetings of national freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators, logistics service providers and shipowner associations
2. The sharing of private sector experiences with Governments through meetings and publications
3. Subregional and regional seminars and workshops, including representatives of the public and private sectors to discuss research findings and to share opinions and experiences

Indicators of achievement:

1. Exchange of experience and best practices are documented, and partnerships are created
2. Issues of common interest are identified and brought to the attention of Governments for their consideration
3. Countries involving both public and private sector stakeholders when planning the operations of logistics service centres and clusters

4.4 Capacity-building in logistics

Immediate objective: to enhance national competencies and skills within the logistics industry through sustainable education programmes targeting freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators, logistics service providers and civil servants

Outputs:

1. Familiarization seminars on the role and development of the logistics industry for senior government officials
2. Training of trainers workshops and seminars, with training material developed by the secretariat of ESCAP, to develop national capacities and skills
3. Support provided to Governments for the establishment of national sustainable programmes in multimodal transport and logistics

Indicators of achievement:

1. Government policies reflect awareness of the need of the logistics industry to provide efficient services
2. Local trainers deliver and implement training programmes to enhance national competencies and skills in multimodal transport and logistics
3. Countries establish sustainable training programmes on multimodal transport and logistics

5. FINANCE AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Most countries of the region are facing shortages of transport infrastructure and services. Available funding from traditional sources falls far short of the investment needs, resulting in a huge investment gap. There is a need to increase available funding from all possible sources, with greater reliance on non-traditional sources, including direct beneficiary payment systems and public-private partnerships.

Immediate objective: to enhance institutional capabilities for the mobilization of additional funding for investment in the transport sector from traditional and non-traditional sources, including public-private partnerships

Outputs:

1. Published guidelines on financing transport infrastructure and services based on good practices from the region
2. Capacity-building activities related to the establishing and strengthening of public-private partnerships and user charging systems, as well as the establishment and management of special funds in the transport sector
3. Regional meetings of national public-private partnership units and programmes and networking among them
4. Studies and reports assessing the public-private partnership-readiness of countries

Indicators of achievement:

1. Countries using the guidelines and an increase in financial and other resources for investment in the transport sector
2. Countries establishing and managing special funds and promoting public-private partnerships for transport infrastructure development and maintenance
3. Documented exchange of experience through networking among agencies and institutions responsible for public-private partnerships
4. ESCAP proposals to enhance public-private partnership-readiness, as reflected in policy statements and actions taken by countries

6. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

Transport is a driver of economic and social development. However, this requires that transport's positive and negative externalities be managed in order to achieve sustainable transport.

Participation of countries in international production networks, supported by transport and communications, has arguably helped to lift more people out of poverty in Asia in the last 30 years than ever before. However, for this process to be expanded to Asian hinterlands and landlocked countries, strategies are needed that incorporate all dimensions of a sustainable transport system using an appropriate mix of policy tools, including integrated assessment and futures-based policy analysis.

Consideration of integrated assessment tools and processes in designing transport policies and programmes can lead to a more positive and comprehensive approach where environmental, social and poverty issues are clearly seen as a constituent part of economic and transport policy objectives.

Immediate objective: to increase awareness and understanding of alternative policy options for sustainable transport by decision-makers

Outputs:

1. Inclusion of sustainable transport-related issues in the *Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific*, the *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* and ad hoc regional transport policy studies
2. Advisory services, meetings and networking of transport decision-makers and advisers on the application of integrated assessment, strategic environmental assessment and related approaches in transport plans, programmes and policies
3. Studies of alternative policy paths ("regional futures") towards sustainable transport

Indicators of achievement:

1. Positive evaluation of publications, analysis and outputs by countries and other concerned groups
2. Methodologies, policies and intervention measures promoted by ESCAP reflected in national or local policy documents
3. Participation of stakeholders, including research groups and national institutes

7. ROAD SAFETY

More than half of the world's traffic fatalities occur in the ESCAP region. In 2005, approximately 440,000 people were killed and as many as 30 million were injured in accidents on the roads of the ESCAP region. Due to rapid motorization, it is expected that by 2020, about two-thirds of the world's road deaths (amounting to 610,000 road deaths) will be in the ESCAP region. Against this background, the General Assembly has adopted a series of resolutions[78] calling on member countries, the World Health Organization and other United Nations regional commissions to address this global road safety crisis.

While some countries have made progress in improving road safety, the overall numbers of road traffic fatalities and injuries continue to increase rapidly in the ESCAP region. Hence, there is a need to step up efforts at the local, national and regional levels in order to stem the "tide" of road accidents.

Immediate objective: to foster better awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved international collaboration in Asia and the Pacific

Outputs:

1. Meetings to discuss and set regional road safety goals, targets and indicators as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific
2. Coordination of activities of the United Nations road safety collaboration in the ESCAP region, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions
3. Collaborative website and meetings for sharing of road safety resources, good practices, data and accident risk maps of the Asian Highway

Indicators of achievement:

1. Regional goals, targets and indicators being applied by members and associate members
2. Regional member countries providing inputs and feedback regarding the material on the website, including the accident risk maps
3. User feedback

8. TRANSPORT AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Poverty is still a major development concern in the region, with large sections of the population, in both rural and urban areas, lacking access to economic and social opportunities. Transport development that improves access and enhances the inclusion of the poor in the overall development process can be an entry point in poverty alleviation. Consideration of the ways in which transport interventions can contribute to poverty reduction at the policy formulation and programming stages may significantly reduce the costs of pro-poor transport interventions. The Millennium Development Goals provide a unique opportunity to consider transport development within a wider framework of intersectoral collaboration to address poverty reduction and economic and social development.

Immediate objective: to foster a better understanding of the links among transport interventions, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Outputs:

1. Seminars and workshops on transport interventions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and informational material on regional good practices in Goal-responsive transport development

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[78] They are: resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003 and 58/9 of 5 November 2003 on the global road safety crisis and 58/289 of 14 April 2004 and 60/5 of 26 October 2005 on improving global road safety.

2. Reviews, analytical and quantitative studies on the links between transport and socio-economic development
3. Dissemination of information on best practices and interventions designed to improve transport connectivity and access

Indicators of achievement:

1. Proposals for Millennium Development Goal-responsive transport interventions included in national policy documents
2. Use of ESCAP promoted methodologies and information/resource materials in support of pro-poor and inclusive transport development
3. Documented exchanges of experiences within the region and instances of technical cooperation between developing countries resulting from activities initiated by the secretariat

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

Resolution 63/10

Review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management[79]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,[80] which, inter alia, encourages the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional and subregional levels in the field of disaster preparedness and response,

Recalling its recommendation at its fifty-ninth session that regional cooperative mechanisms be institutionalized to facilitate equitable sharing of the benefits of space technology development and applications by all countries in the region, in particular in various fields of space technology applications for disaster management,[81] and the request made at its sixty-second session to conduct the required study and assist the Islamic Republic of Iran in enhancing capacity-building for the establishment and operation of a proposed disaster management centre,[82]

Acknowledging the importance of natural disaster information management as outlined in the reports of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on its ninth session, held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 and 16 December 2003, and its tenth session, held in Bangalore, India, on 21 and 22 October 2004; the Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning on its 11th meeting, and the Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring on its 10th meeting, both held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 3 to 5 September 2005; the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Technical Options for Disaster Management Systems: Tsunamis and Others, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 June 2005; and the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 19 October 2006,

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration[83] and the Hyogo Framework for Action,[84] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which emphasized the need for strengthening and, when necessary, developing coordinated regional approaches and creating or upgrading regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities,

Also recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society,[85] which, inter alia, called for creating and promoting regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

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[79] See paras. 233 to 246 above.

[80] A/57/578.

[81] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 19* (E/2003/39), para. 232.

[82] Ibid., *2006, Supplement No. 19* (E/2006/39), para. 223.

[83] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[84] Ibid., resolution 2.

[85] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

Further recalling the Tunis Commitment,[86] which recognized that disaster mitigation can significantly support efforts to bring about sustainable development and help in poverty reduction, and which reaffirmed the commitment to leveraging information and communication technology capabilities and potential through fostering and strengthening cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the inclusion of "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[87]

Noting the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration[88] adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, on 22 and 23 March 2003, on disaster mitigation and risk management,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make effective use of scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters in the Asian and Pacific region and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable societies, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[89]

Recognizing that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners are considered essential in order to address the impact of natural disasters effectively, while also emphasizing the need to avoid any potential duplication between the work of international organizations and other entities involved in the area of disaster information management within the Asian and Pacific region,

Further recognizing the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, to address issues of poverty reduction and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of implementing the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, which highlighted the necessity of strengthened coordination and cooperation for integrating the activities and expertise of the various sectors involved in the early warning process,

Noting the offer made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management,

Noting also that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared a feasibility study for the establishment of a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management,

1. *Decides* to further study the modalities for strengthening regionally coordinated disaster information management and early warning, including the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and to assess, in that regard, the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance regional support for members and associate members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation; the study should be conducted in consultation with regional and international entitites involved in disaster information management and early warning;

(b) To facilitate the organization of a workshop on disaster information management and early warning;

(c) To submit a report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008, on the outcome of the feasibility study.

Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007

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[86] See A/60/687.

[87] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A.

[88] A/57/785, annex.

[89] A/61/229 and Corr.1.

B. Other decisions

Decision 63/1

Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission[90]

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 23 May 2007, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and entitled "Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management" (E/ESCAP/63/L.5) until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

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[90] See paras. 233 to 246 above.

Annex I

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2006-2007[a] or the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009:[b]

(a) Resolution 63/1: Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 63/2: recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission;

(c) Resolution 63/3: review of the conference structure of the Commission;

(d) Resolution 63/4: achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region;

(e) Resolution 63/5: midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;

(f) Resolution 63/6: implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(g) Resolution 63/7: international migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(h) Resolution 63/8: sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific;

(i) Resolution 63/9: implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned draft resolutions.

3. With respect to paragraph 2(d) of resolution 63/7, an output would need to be added to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 to reflect the high-level meeting on international migration and development.

4. With respect to paragraph 2(a) of resolution 63/10 on the review of regional modalities in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management, the secretariat provided an oral statement that additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 would arise with respect to external specialized expertise not available in the secretariat. The additional estimated full costs would relate to consultancy fees and travel to countries in the ESCAP region for data collection and other research purposes. The requirement for this activity, estimated at $61,000, will be accommodated from the approved resources under section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

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[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly. Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/60/6/Add.1).

[b] A/62/6 (Sect 18).

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Poverty Reduction		Third session Bangkok 29 November- 1 December 2006	E/ESCAP/63/8
Chairperson:	Mr. Domingo Panganiban (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Chamnan Wattanasiri (Thailand) Mr. Vishnu Kumar (India)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Juliana Kubak (Papua New Guinea)		
Committee on Managing Globalization, Part I		Third session Bangkok 12-14 September 2006	E/ESCAP/63/10
Chairperson:	Mr. P.H.J.B Sugathadasa (Sri Lanka)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Wardiyatmo (Indonesia) H.E. Mr. Hav Bunse (Cambodia)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov (Russian Federation)		
Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II		Third session Bangkok 10-12 October 2006	E/ESCAP/63/11
Chairperson:	Mr. Jiro Usui (Japan)		
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov (Russian Federation)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Umardin Hj. Abdul Mutalib (Malaysia)		
Committee on Emerging Social Issues		Third session Bangkok 12-14 December 2006	E/ESCAP/63/6
Chairperson:	H.E. Ms. San Arun (Cambodia)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Hu Hongtao (China) Ms. Nelly Calimoso Miranda (Philippines)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Asim Ahmed (Maldives)		

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[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Ministerial Conference on Transport		Busan, Republic of Korea 10-11 November 2006	E/ESCAP/63/13
Chairperson:	H.E. Mr. Choo Byung-Jik (Republic of Korea)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	H.E. Mr. Hrant Beglaryan (Armenia) H.E. Mr. Ziya Mammadov (Azerbaijan) H.E. Mr. Kinzang Dorji (Bhutan) H.E. Mr. Sun Chanthol (Cambodia) H.E. Mr. Zhiguo Wang (China) H.E. Mr. Shigetaro Yamamoto (Japan) H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas (Malaysia) H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Zuhair (Maldives) H.E. Mr. Ts. Tsengel (Mongolia) H.E. Major General Aung Min (Myanmar) Hon. Mr. Kieren Keke (Nauru) H.E. Mr. Gopal Man Shrestha (Nepal) H.E. Mr. Rashid Ahmed (Pakistan) H.E. Mr. Alexander Misharin (Russian Federation) H.E. Ms. Lim Hwee Hua (Singapore) H.E. Mr. Abdul Fowzie (Sri Lanka) H.E. Mr. Abdurakhim Ashurovich Ashurov (Tajikistan) H.E. Mr. Inacio Freitas Moreira (Timor-Leste) H.E. Mr. Sansern Wongcha-Um (Thailand) H.E. Mr. Pham The Minh (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	U Khin Maung (Myanmar)		
Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries		Eighth session Almaty, Kazakhstan 15-16 May 2007	E/ESCAP/63/18
Co-Chairpersons:	Hon. Mr. Jalil Shams (Afghanistan) Mr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Naoysau Murayama (Japan) Mr. Umardin A. Mutalib (Malaysia)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Oyu Vasha (Mongolia)		

Annex III

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
Limited series		
E/ESCAP/63/L.1	Provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/63/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/63/L.3 and Corr.1	Draft report	13
E/ESCAP/63/L.4/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Review of the conference structure of the Commission	6(b)
E/ESCAP/63/L.5	Draft resolution: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.6/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.7/Rev.4	Draft resolution: Sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific	3(b)
E/ESCAP/63/L.8/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011)	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.9/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.10/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region	2
E/ESCAP/63/L.11/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.12/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/63/L.13/Rev.2	Draft resolution: International migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	5
E/ESCAP/63/L.14/Rev.1	Draft resolution: Review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/L.15	Draft decision: Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission	4(c)

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
Regular series		
E/ESCAP/63/1	Agenda of the sixty-third session	1(c)
E/ESCAP/63/2	Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region: regional road map to 2015	2
E/ESCAP/63/3	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	3(a)
E/ESCAP/63/4	Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific	3(b)
E/ESCAP/63/5	Report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission	3(c)
E/ESCAP/63/6	Report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its third session	4(a)
E/ESCAP/63/7	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues	4(a)
E/ESCAP/63/8	Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its third session	4(b)
E/ESCAP/63/9	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction	4(b)
E/ESCAP/63/10	Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session (Part I)	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/11	Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session (Part II)	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/12	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/13	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/14 and Corr.1	Regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/15	Regional perspectives on key trade and investment developments	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/16	Latest developments relating to information, communication and space technology	4(c)
E/ESCAP/63/17	Progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration	4(d)
E/ESCAP/63/18	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its eighth session	5
E/ESCAP/63/19	External evaluation of ESCAP: key findings and proposals for action	6(a)
E/ESCAP/63/20	Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment: Delivering as One	6(a)
E/ESCAP/63/21	Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: final review of the revised conference structure	6(b)
E/ESCAP/63/22	Draft programme of work for the period 2008-2009	7(a)
E/ESCAP/63/23	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	7(b)
E/ESCAP/63/24	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7(b)

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/63/25	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	7(b)
E/ESCAP/63/26	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific	7(b)
E/ESCAP/63/27	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7(b)
E/ESCAP/63/28	Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	8
E/ESCAP/63/29 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	9
E/ESCAP/63/30	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	10
E/ESCAP/63/31	Report of the Mekong River Commission	10
E/ESCAP/63/32	Report of the Typhoon Committee	10
E/ESCAP/63/33	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	10
E/ESCAP/63/34	Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission	11

Annex IV

LISTS OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2006/2007

A. List of publications [*]

Least Developed Countries Coordination Unit/ Office of the Executive Secretary

Component: Executive direction and management

Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, Least Developed Countries Series No. 7 (ST/ESCAP/2417), *Challenges of the Least Developed Countries: Governance and Trade*, No. 8 (ST/ESCAP/2443) (E.07.II.F.11)

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2006: Energizing the Global Economy (ST/ESCAP/2396) (E.06.II.F.10)

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 13, No. 1, June 2006 (ST/ESCAP/2419) (E.06.II.F.25)

Manual on Effective Debt Management (ST/ESCAP/2416) (E.06.II.F.21)

Key Economic Developments and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2423) (E.06.II.F.27)

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures 2005, 19th edition (ST/ESCAP/2427) (E.06.II.F.29)

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXXV, December 2005 (*Compendium*) (ST/ESCAP/2403) (E.06.II.F.14)

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade Newsletter, vol. 2, No. 2, May 2006; No. 3, September 2006; vol. 3, No. 1, January 2007

ARTNeT Policy Briefs, No. 7, July 2006; No. 8, October 2006; No. 9, November 2006; No. 10, December 2006; No. 11, January 2007

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review, vol. 2, No. 1, May 2006 (ST/ESCAP/2414) (E.06.II.F.22); No. 2, May 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2436) (E.06.II.F.33)

Traders' Manual for Landlocked Countries: Mongolia (ST/ESCAP/2422)

An Exploration of the Need for and Cost of Selected Trade Facilitation Measures in Asia and the Pacific in the Context of the WTO Negotiations, Studies in Trade and Investment No. 57 (ST/ESCAP/2426) (E.06.II.F.28)

Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs: Subnational Innovation Systems and Technological Capacity-building Policies (ST/ESCAP/2435)

Trade Facilitation in the Selected Landlocked Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2437)

Linking Greater Mekong Subregion Enterprises to International Markets: The Role of Global Value Chains, International Production Networks and Enterprise Clusters (ST/ESCAP/2439)

Agricultural Trade: Planting the Seeds of Regional Liberalization in Asia, Studies in Trade and Investment No. 59 (ST/ESCAP/2451)

Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism

Toward an Asian Integrated Transport Network, 2nd edition (ST/ESCAP/2399)

Improvement of Transport and Logistics Facilities to Expand Port Hinterlands: Policy Guidelines (ST/ESCAP/2299) (E.04.II.F.16)

Priority Investment Needs for the Development of the Asian Highway Network (ST/ESCAP/2424)

Integrated International Transport and Logistics System for North-East Asia (ST/ESCAP/2434) (E.06.II.F.2)

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

Environment and Sustainable Development News, vol. 6, No. 2, June 2006; No. 3, September 2006

Green Growth at a Glance: The Way Forward for Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2407) (E.06.11.F.16)

State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005, Synthesis: Economic Growth and Sustainability (ST/ESCAP/2411) (E.06.II.F.18); *Economic Growth and Sustainability* (ST/ESCAP/2418) (E.06.II.F. 30)

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Asia-Pacific Journal on Information, Communication and Space Technology: Reviews and Updates (ST/ESCAP/2375) (E.05.II.F.26)

Policy Brief in ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 1, November 2006; No. 2, December 2006

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[*] Where applicable, United Nations publication sales numbers are shown in parentheses and start with the letter "E".

Best Practices in Financial Mechanisms for ICT for Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2441) (E.07.II.F.6)

Entrepreneurship and e-Business Development for Women (ST/ESCAP/2450)

Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2415) (E.06.II.F.20)

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Toolkit for Implementing and Monitoring the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (ST/ESCAP/2388) (E.06.II.F.17)

Moving Forward Post-tsunami: Voices of the Vulnerable (ST/ESCAP/2410) (E.06.II.F.19)

Population Headliners, No. 312, May-June 2006; No. 313, July-August 2006; No. 314, September-October 2006; No. 315, November-December 2006; No. 316, January-February 2007

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 21, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2413) (E.06.II.F.99); vol. 21, No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2428) (E.06.II.F.98); Special Issue (ST/ESCAP/2425) (E.06.II.F.97); vol. 21, No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2445) (E.06.II.F.96)

Disability at a Glance: A Profile of 28 Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2421) (E.06.II.F.24)

B. List of meetings

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

National Symposium on Housing the Poor in Urban Economies, Dili, April 2006

National Workshop on Capacity-building for External Debt Management in the Era of Rapid Globalization, Kathmandu, May 2006

Ninth Regional Consultative Meeting on Good Urban Governance: Vancouver, Canada, June 2006; Tenth Meeting, Mumbai, India, November 2006

National Seminars on the State of Income and Employment Generation Programmes, including Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation: Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, June 2006; Georgia, Tbilisi, July 2006; Armenia, Yerevan, July 2006; Tajikistan, Dushanbe, July-August 2006

Training Workshop on Rural-Urban Linkages, Thimpu, August 2006

Training Workshop on Site Development and Tenure Options, Battambang, Cambodia, October 2006

South Asia MDG Forum, Kathmandu, October 2006

National Forum on Community-based Development of Ger Areas, Ulaanbaatar, October 2006

Meeting of Eminent Persons on Economic and Social Performance and Issues, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Localizing the Millennium Development Goals through Community-based Monitoring Systems, Bangkok, November 2006

Technical Committee of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, third session, Bogor, Indonesia, January 2007

Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, third session, Bogor, Indonesia, January 2007

Training Workshop on Approaches to Low-income Housing, Biratnagar, Nepal, February 2007

Regional Workshop on Capacity-building for Development of Bond Markets in ESCAP Member States, Bangkok, February 2007

Subregional Seminar on the State of Income and Employment Generation Programmes in Countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Yerevan, February 2007

Regional MDG Forum for East and South-East Asia, Hanoi, March 2007

Study-Visit-cum-Training Workshop on Community-based Composting, Dhaka, March 2007

High-level Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development and Financing in Asia-Pacific, New Delhi, March 2007

High-level Regional MDG Forum on North and Central Asia, Bishkek, April 2007

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Task Force on Harmonization of Statistical Classification, Bangkok, April 2006

PARIS21/ESCAP High-level Forum on Strategic Planning in Statistics for Central Asian Countries, Bishkek, May 2006; South-East Asian Countries, Bangkok, June 2006; East and North-East Asian Countries, Ulaanbaatar, October 2006

Fourth Workshop for Improving Disability Statistics and Measurement, Bangkok, June 2006

Workshop on Statistics for Monitoring the Achievement of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, July-August 2006

Expert Group Meeting on the ESCAP Regional Census Programme, Bangkok, November 2006

Statistical Literacy Training-of-Trainers Workshop, Bangkok, December 2006

International Workshop on Country Practices in Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Bangkok, December 2006

Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories

ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre Working Group of the Advisory Council, second session, Suva, April 2007

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

National Seminars on the Prospective Benefits of APTA Membership for the Philippines, Manila, August 2006; Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, May 2007

National Workshops and Advisory Services on Trade and Transport Facilitation: Ulaanbaatar, April 2006; Bishkek, May 2006; Dushanbe, May 2006; Astana, July 2006

WTO/ESCAP Second ARTNeT Capacity-building Workshop on Trade Research, Bangkok, April 2006

Government-Business Dialogue: Empowering Business to Play a Proactive Role in WTO Negotiations, Singapore, May 2006

WTO/ESCAP/Ministry of Commerce High-level Consultations on the Doha Development Agenda Negotiation Issues for Asian and Pacific Economies, Shenzhen, China, May 2006

ARTNeT Services Trade Liberalization Research Team Meeting, Bangkok, June 2006

Workshops on Promoting the Participation of SMEs from the Greater Mekong Subregion in Global and Regional Potato Value Chains: Taunggyi, Myanmar, July 2006; Bangkok, October 2006

UNDP/ESCAP/ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration, Bangkok, August 2006

Fifth Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, Bangkok, September 2006

WTO/ESCAP/ARTNeT Advanced Regional Seminar on Multilateral Negotiations in Services for Asian and Pacific Economies, Kolkata, India, September 2006

International Conference on Trade Facilitation, Moscow, October 2006

National Workshops on Subnational Innovation Systems and Technology Capacity-building Policies to Enhance Competitiveness of SMEs: Beijing, October 2006; Kathmandu, December 2006

The Post-Doha Research Agenda for Developing Countries – WTO/ESCAP/ARTNeT Workshop, Macao, China, October 2006

Second Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in Landlocked and Transit Countries, Bangkok, October-November 2006

Third ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policy Makers and Research Institutions, Macao, China, November 2006

WIPO/ESCAP Colloquium on Intellectual Property, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and Regional Economic Cooperation, Kolkata, India, November 2006

Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, twenty-fifth session, Kolkata, India, November 2006

Technical Committee Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, second session, Suwon, Republic of Korea, November 2006

Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation/Consumer Unity and Trust Society/ESCAP Conference on Advocacy for Trade and Investment Facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, November 2006

Governing Council Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, second session, Suwon, Republic of Korea, November 2006

Seminar on Trade Facilitation for SPECA Countries, Dushanbe, December 2006

SPECA Project Working Group on Trade, first session, Dushanbe, December 2006

National Seminar on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement for Pakistan, Islamabad, January 2007

Meeting of the Working Groups and the Coordination Committee on Promoting the Participation of SMEs from the Greater Mekong Subregion in Global and Regional Value Chains, Kunming, China, January-February 2007

National Workshops on Subnational Innovation Systems and Technology Capacity-building Policies to Enhance the Competitiveness of SMEs: Ulaanbaatar, March 2007; Jakarta, April 2007

WTO/ESCAP Third ARTNeT Capacity-building Workshop on Trade Research, Bangkok, March 2007

Regional Meeting for Asian Global Compact Focal Points, Bangkok, April 2007

Meeting of the Coordination Committee on Promoting the Participation of SMEs from the Greater Mekong Subregion in Global and Regional Value Chains, Beijing, April 2007

Regional Dialogue on Restrictive Policies and Measures in the Textile and Clothing Trade, Shanghai, China, April 2007

SPECA-ASEAN Capacity-building Workshop on Trade Facilitation: UNeDocs – A Step Towards Electronic Trade Documentation, Bangkok, April 2007

Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism

Seminar on Cluster Development for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, Bangkok, May 2006

Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Asian Highway Network: Regional Experiences and Lessons in Financing Highway Infrastructure and Improving Road Safety, Bangkok, May 2006

Fourth United Nations Road Safety Collaboration Meeting, Bangkok, May 2006

National Workshops and Advisory Services on the Facilitation of Interregional Transport along Euro-Asian Transport Links: Baku, May 2006; Tbilisi, May 2006; Bishkek, December 2006

Seminar on Tourism on Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions Education in Asia and the Pacific, Shanghai, China, May 2006

Thirteenth Meeting of the APETIT Executive Committee, Shanghai, China, May 2006

National Workshops and Advisory Services on Trade and Transport Facilitation: Ulaanbaatar, April 2006; Bishkek, May 2006; Dushanbe, May 2006; Astana, July 2006

ESCAP/Australian Habitat Studies/Institute for Human Sciences-India Workshop on Transport Development, Bangkok, March 2006

National Seminar on Training of Trainers on Multimodal Transport, Yangon, July 2006

National Training Workshop on Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, July 2006

Fourth Negotiating Meeting on the Agreement between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport, Beijing, August 2006; Fifth Meeting, Beijing, January 2007

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme Sixth Transport Sector Coordinating Meeting, Urumqi, China, August 2006

National Workshop on Training of Trainers in Multimodal Transport, Port Klang, Malaysia, September 2006

Fourth Steering Committee Meeting on Planning and Implementation of Demonstration Runs of Container Block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, Astana, September 2006

National Seminar on Enhancing the Role of Tourism in Socio-economic Development and Perspectives of Integrating Mongolia in Asia-Pacific Regional Tourism Development, Ulaanbaatar, September 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Evaluation of the Study on Legal Regimes for Transport Facilitation, Bangkok, September 2006

Second Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation for Landlocked and Transit Countries, Bangkok, October-November 2006

Fourth Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, Thessaloniki, Greece, November 2006

Seminar on Impact of Tourism Initiatives on Poverty Reduction, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Logistics Service Centres and Cluster Development, Bangkok, December 2006

Workshop on Training of Trainers in Multimodal Transport and Logistics, Colombo, January 2007

National Training-of-Trainers Workshop on Multimodal Transport, Phnom Penh, February 2007

ESCAP/UNCTAD Third Formal Meeting on Cluster Development for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, Nongkhai, Thailand, May 2007

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

International Seminar on Energy Efficiency Action at the Municipal Level, Bangkok, May 2006

Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy, first session, Bangkok, May 2006; second session, Ulaanbaatar, November 2006

Second Regional Policy Dialogue: Role of Public Policy in Providing Sustainable Consumption Choices: Resource-saving Society and Green Growth, Beijing, May 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficiency in North-East Asia, Beijing, May 2006

Subregional Workshop on the Trade and Environment Dimensions of the Food and Food-processing Industries: in the Pacific, Suva, June 2006; in South-East and North-East Asia, Jakarta, July 2006; in South Asia, Colombo, September 2006

Regional Workshop on Mitigation, Preparedness and Development for Tsunami Early Warning Systems in the Indian Ocean Region, Bangkok, June 2006

Kitakyushu Initiative International Workshop on Local Initiatives Addressing the Transformation of Lifestyles towards Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo, June 2006

Asia-Pacific Consultations on the Climate Regime beyond 2012: South-East Asia, Bangkok, July 2006

Capacity-building Workshop on Partnerships for Improving the Performance of Water Utilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, July 2006

Seventh Regional Meeting of Asian and Pacific Focal Points in preparation for the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Bangkok, August 2006

Mainstreaming Policies and Investment in Low Carbon: Opportunities for New Approaches to Investment and Flexible Mechanisms, Bangkok, August 2006

Training on High-voltage Electricity Transmission for Officials from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Henan Province, China, September 2006

First Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth, Seoul, September 2006

Regional Workshop on the Trade and Environment Dimensions in the Food and Food-processing Industries in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 2006

Review Meeting of the Project on a Framework for the Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia, Altan Bulag, Mongolia, October 2006

Seoul Initiative Leadership Programme on Green Growth, Incheon, Republic of Korea, October-November 2006

Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Policy Options for Enhancing Energy Security and Energy Efficiency and the Role of the Private Sector, Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 2006

Special Progamme for the Economies of the Central Asia Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources, fourteenth session, Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 2006

Regional Workshop on Application of the ESCAP Template for Assessment of Socio-economic Impacts of Natural Disasters, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Integration of Water-related Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation into Socio-economic Development Plans, Bangkok, November 2006

Regional Workshop to Promote Implementation of National Strategies on Integration of Rural Energy Policies and Programmes on Access to Energy Services, Jakarta and Panaruban, Indonesia, December 2006

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment: Local Initiatives Addressing Environmental and Socio-economic Co-benefits, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, December 2006

Second Roundtable Workshop: Prospects of Green Tax and Budget Reform: Principles and Country Experiences, Bangkok, December 2006

Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, second session, Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, December 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Developing Eco-efficiency Indicators of Economic Growth, Bangkok, January 2007

Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility and International Material Flow, Manila, February 2007

Workshop on the Carbon Market and Private Sector Participation, Seoul, February 2007

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, thirty-fourth session, Malé, February-March 2007

OECD/United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ESCAP Workshop on Developing Sustainability Strategies in Asia, Bangkok, March 2007

Policy Options for Expanding the Provision of Community-driven Energy Services, Beijing, March 2007

Twelfth Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Beijing, March 2007

Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Growth in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, March 2007

Expert Group Meeting on the North-East Asian Environmental Outlook, April 2007

Study Review Meeting on Potential Biomass Trade Analysis in South-East Asia for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, May 2007

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Expert Group Meeting on ICT Applications for Trade and Transport Facilitation for Landlocked and Transit Countries in Asia, Bangkok, April 2006

Regional Workshop on Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and Integration of ICT Policies and Strategies in the Development Process, Bangkok, May 2006

Technical Committee and Governing Council Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, Incheon, Republic of Korea, June 2006

Inaugural session of the Governing Council of the Asian and the Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, Incheon, Republic of Korea, June 2006; second session, April 2007

Regional Training Workshop for Enterprise Support Agencies to Promote E-business in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, June 2006

Consultative Meeting on the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Drought Disaster Reduction, Beijing, June 2006

International Workshop on Entrepreneurship and E-business Development for Women, Seoul, July 2006

Midterm Training Courses on Applications of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Natural Disaster Management, Cibinong and Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July-August 2006

Workshop on Satellite-based E-learning Tools for Population Development and Family Planning, Lanzhou, China, July 2006

Regional Seminar on Capacity-building in ICT Policymaking in Central Asia, Bishkek, July 2006

Joint UNCTAD-ITU-ESCAP Regional Workshop on Information Society Measurements in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, July 2006

Regional Working Group in Satellite Communication Applications and Regional Working Group in Space Science and Technology Applications, Bangkok, August 2006

Meeting of Eminent Experts on Information, Communication and Space Technology, in Preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, August 2006

Training Course on Satellite Remote Sensing Technology and its Applications for the Central Asian Region, Beijing, September 2006

Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, Hong Kong, China, September 2006

Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, Hong Kong, China, September 2006

Workshop on Drought Disaster Reduction, Hong Kong, China, September 2006

High-level Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, October 2006

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, October 2006

Regional Workshop on Capacity-building in Public Policy Issues of Internet Use for Business Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 2006

National Workshop on Capacity-building in Public Policy Issues of Internet Use for Business Development, Kathmandu, October 2006

International Conference on Closing the Gap in Planning and Implementation of E-government in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and ICT for Development, Bangkok, November-December 2006

Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT, Bangkok, December 2006

ITU/ESCAP Joint Regional Workshop on Disaster Communications, Bangkok, December 2006

Technical Committee and Governing Council Meetings of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, Lahore, Pakistan, December 2006

APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 2006

National Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on the Establishment of Community E-centres, Thimphu, January 2007

Regional Forum on Information and Communication Technology Capacity-building: Where are we, Where are we going and What will it take to fill the gap? Incheon, Republic of Korea, March 2007

National Workshop on Capacity-building in Public Policy Issues of Internet Use for Business Development, Vientiane, March 2007

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Training Workshop on Community-based Treatment for Young Drug Users, Nghe An Province, Viet Nam, May 2006

Health Transition in an Ageing Society: Assessing the Needs for Geriartric Services, Dhaka, May 2006

Regional Thematic Working Group on Migration, including Human Trafficking: Bangkok, May, September and December 2006 and March 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Preparations for the High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Shanghai Implementation Strategy – Pending the Outcome of the Social Development Commission, Shanghai, China, June-July 2006

Art for All: Towards a Caring Society, Bangkok, July 2006

Biwako Millennium Framework Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting: first session, Bangkok, July 2006; second session, March 2007

Workshop on Regional Follow-up to the Seventh Session and Preparation for the Eighth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, July 2006

Working Committee Meeting of the Christian Conference of the Asia-ESCAP Programme, Bangkok, August 2006

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Seminar on South-South Cooperation on Disability: Development of an APCD Network, Bangkok, September 2006

ESCAP/Asia and Pacific Disability Forum Regional Workshop on Biwako Plus 5 in 2007 and General Assembly of APDF, second session, Bangkok, October 2006

Workshop on Self-help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Related Family and Parents Associations and Women with Disabilities towards Biwako Plus 5, Bangkok, October 2006

Regional Project Workshop on Health without Borders, Bangkok, October 2006

Training Workshop on Population, Development and Poverty, Mumbai, India, October-November 2006

ESCAP/China Disabled Persons Federation Workshop on Accessible Tourism, Hainan, China, October-November 2006

Training Workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Implementation and Follow-up of Concluding Comments, Bangkok, November 2006

Regional Seminar on Strengthening the Capacity of National Machineries for Gender Equality to Shape Migration Policies and Protect Migrant Women, Bangkok, November 2006

Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Health Systems for Economic Growth and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, November-December 2006

Seminar on Fertility Transition in Asia: Opportunities and Challenges, Bangkok, December 2006

ESCAP-HelpAge International Regional Conference on Ensuring Social Protection in Old Age in the Context of Rapid Ageing, Bangkok, January 2007

Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Social and Economic Participation of Persons with Disabilities towards the Biwako Plus 5, Bangkok, February 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Preparations for the Global Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Bangkok, March 2007

C. List of advisory services

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

Armenia: (a) to review the current system of planning for creating self-employment opportunities and generating income, to identify the framework for linking the national and subnational programmes for income-generation and suggest improvements, to help the Government of Armenia set up a system of community-based planning, monitoring and evaluation and to assist in the implementation of the project on participatory planning, and the monitoring and evaluation of employment and income-generating programmes at the local and regional levels; (b) to advise the Ministry of Finance on participatory monitoring of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and advise the Government on institutionalizing a people-centred employment and income-generation plan at the regional and local levels; and (c) to build the capacity of a core set of people on participatory methods and principles for people-centred planning at the regional and local levels for activities such as employment and income-generation, and for developing a report card for the "voices of the poor".

Bangladesh, to carry out an impact assessment of the rural development projects implemented by the Government through the Bangladesh Rural Development Board and examine the institutional aspects of the poverty reduction strategy of the Government, to develop, in consultation with the Government through the Board, a logical framework for results-based management, to conduct a preliminary discussion on the feasibility of setting up rural resource centres for meetings, building capacity, accessing information and providing other information technology-enabled services on a pilot basis in partnership with other agencies such as UNDP and the private sector.

Fiji: (a) to present a paper at a meeting in Nadi on the Pacific Islands Families Study; (b) to participate in the regional workshop on Millennium Development Goal-based development and pro-poor policy and budgeting framework; and (c) to assist the Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Board to prepare a medium-term corporate plan for the period 2007-2011.

Georgia: (a) to review the current system of planning for creating self-employment opportunities and generating income, to identify the framework for linking national and subnational programmes for income-generation and suggest improvements, to help set up a system of community-based planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to help the Government to set up a system for training officials at different levels for participatory planning and evaluation; and (b) to advise the Government on institutionalizing a people-centred plan for employment and income-generation at the regional and local levels.

India: (a) to assist the Planning Commission of India to support working groups for: (i) democratic decentralization and institutions, (ii) rainfed agriculture and natural resource management, (iii) a poverty-elimination programme for the formulation of the eleventh five-year plan for India and (iv) management of land resources; to assist in the finalization of the report of the expert group on district planning, to act as a resource person for the government brainstorming meeting for discussing and firming up the functions, design, structure and governance of the National Rainfed Area Authority, and to advise on the negotiations of the Executive Secretary with the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Commerce, Minister of State for Finance, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance; (b) to meet local NGOs and community-based institutions, which could be local partners in the implementation of the project, and to meet district government officials in Chennai; and (c) to provide advisory services to the Government of India with regard to making a quick assessment of the state of development of the eleventh five-year plan and relevant working groups.

Kiribati: (a) to conduct an initial assessment of documentation on assessing adjustment costs in consultation with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat staff; (b) to collect information regarding the costs of adjustment for public institutions and the private sector; and (c) to prepare reports and presentations.

Kyrgyzstan: (a) to review the current system of planning for the creation of self-employment opportunities and income-generating activities in the country, to review methods for creating employment and generating income and to help relevant ministries to set up a system of participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; and (b) to advise the Government on institutionalizing a people-centred plan at the regional and local levels for employment and income-generation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: to initiate a process for (a) assessing the impact and sustainability of an overall ESCAP/UNDP integrated rural accessibility planning project, including the community-participation approach and (b) identifying the elements of innovativeness and good practices of the project's 11 microinterventions, assessing the replicability of the project elsewhere, and identifying further interventions that could be made to enhance the impact and sustainability of the achievements of the project.

Papua New Guinea: (a) to conduct an initial assessment of documentation on assessing adjustment costs in consultation with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat staff; (b) to collect information regarding the costs of adjustment for public institutions and the private sector; and (c) to prepare reports and presentations.

Samoa: (a) to conduct an initial assessment of documentation on assessing adjustment costs in consultation with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat staff; (b) to collect information regarding the costs of adjustment for public institutions and the private sector; and (c) to prepare reports and presentations.

Solomon Islands, to provide advisory services to the Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination in the preparation and presentation of a project planning manual for the use of the Department's staff.

Tajikistan: (a) to review the system of planning for creating employment and generating income, identify the framework for linking the national and subnational programmes for income-generation and suggest improvements, to help the Government set up a system of community-based planning, monitoring and evaluation and to assist in the implementation of a project on participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation for employment and income-generating programmes at the local and regional levels; and (b) to advise the Ministry of Economy and Trade on institutionalizing a people-centred plan for employment and income-generation at the regional and local levels.

Tonga, to review secondary social and economic data, hold village-level consultations on development priorities and help to draft a strategic development plan.

Vanuatu: (a) to assist government officials to finalize a revised document on priorities and an action agenda for consideration by the Government; (b) to conduct an initial assessment of documentation on assessing adjustment costs in consultation with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat staff; (c) to collect information regarding the costs of adjustment for public institutions and the private sector; (d) to prepare reports and presentations; and (e) to present to a meeting of trade ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States a report on adjusting to a Pacific economic partnership agreement.

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

China, to serve as a resource person on statistical issues related to the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and to participate in a training workshop on planning and monitoring, held in Nanjing, with regard to provincial-level achievement of those Goals.

Sri Lanka: (a) to provide advisory services to the Department of Census and Statistics in establishing a well-coordinated master training programme; and (b) to provide assistance in reviewing and fine-tuning the strategy for a training programme proposed by the Department.

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

Bhutan: (a) to assist the Ministry of Trade and Industry to complete action plans and individual work plans for the country's new trade development office; (b) to give advice regarding accession to WTO as pertains to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); (c) to assist the Ministry in the implementation of the trade development office action plans for exporter development, marketing and promotion, and trade facilitation, specifically to advise on issues related to GATS and accession to WTO; and (d) to provide advisory services aimed at assisting the Ministry to integrate technical assistance projects of the European Union International Trade Centre into the action programme of the Trade Development Office.

Mongolia: (a) to assist the Ministry of Industry and Trade to finalize consultations with government agencies and the private sector regarding GATS negotiations; (b) to prepare GATS requests, requesting members to improve their commitments to areas of interest; (c) to prepare a draft initial offer, responding to requests from other members and suggesting commitments in priority areas where Mongolia would like to attract technology and skills; (d) to prepare a user-friendly briefing note to use in further consultations with relevant agencies and to provide information to new ministers and senior officials; and (e) to continue to introduce staff of the Ministry to good practices with regard to consultation.

Nepal, to assist the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies to prepare WTO/GATS requests and initial offers, to prepare for the service negotiations of BIMSTEC and to identify interests and priorities for the aid for trade programme and discuss possible assistance with potential donors.

Pakistan, to give a presentation on investment policy and transfer of technology at an international conference organized by the Islamic Development Bank in Islamabad.

Samoa, to assist the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour on recommendations and action plans to enable its Industry Development and Investment Promotion Division to realize the objectives set out for it in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa.

Thailand, to provide training on WTO/GATS, with a special focus on financial services negotiations, to a group of 25 officers from the Bank of Thailand, the Finance Ministry and other agencies, with the aim of assisting the officers to gain a better understanding of how GATS operates and what Thailand may wish to consider in the current request-offer negotiations.

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

Cambodia, to assist the national environmental impact assessment guidelines drafting group in drafting the environmental impact assessment guidelines on mining exploration and operation.

China: (a) to serve as a resource person in a consultative meeting of international experts on drought risk reduction, as requested by the Department of Disaster and Social Relief of the Ministry of Civil Affairs; and (b) to serve as a resource person and give a presentation on desert control science and technology for an extension course.

Kazakhstan: (a) to serve as a resource person and participate in a training workshop for working group members of the Council for Sustainable Development of Kazakhstan; and (b) to hold consultations and meetings with the working group members and the relevant government officials from different ministries, especially those from the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (a) to conduct an advisory mission to advise on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, to provide an update to the Lao National Action Programme on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and to identify project concepts on Global Environment Facility guidelines; and (b) to provide advisory services to revise further the draft third national report on the implementation of the Convention and finalize the proposal for final submission to the Science, Technology and Environment Agency.

Mongolia, to advise on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to analyse the main outputs of the stocktaking and stakeholders consultation, and draft and finalize a project proposal for Global Environment Facility funding.

Myanmar: (a) to provide advice and assistance on the programmes of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, Global Environment Facility funding and drafting a project proposal for the preparation of the national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and (b) to provide advisory services and assist in the preparation of a comprehensive report on the state of the environment.

Republic of Korea, to attend a symposium in commemoration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Thailand, to serve as a resource person in a subregional workshop on the validation of the South-East Asian subregional action programme of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and provide technical advice on the development of a comprehensive subregional action programme based on the existing framework.

Viet Nam: (a) to provide advisory services on issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, including acting as a resource person by participating in a stocktaking and stakeholder consultation workshop and preparing a draft project proposal for the preparation of the second national communication of Viet Nam to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for Global Environment Facility funding; and (b) to provide advisory services to the Ministry by serving as a resource person for the first national workshop and by holding consultations with the project team members on the implementation of the second national communication, including the workplan, as well as activities on the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

Uzbekistan, to provide advisory services for the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service on issues relating to the implementation of a project involving the preparation of the national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including vulnerability and adaptation assessments, technology transfer, updating of the inventory of greenhouse gases, capacity-building and public awareness.

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to review and provide advisory services on information, communication and space technology policies, strategies and programmes, including e-government, e-business and e-tourism of the Science Technology and Environment Agency, and assess the need for follow-up advisory and technical services.

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Fiji, to review secondary social and economic data and relevant national policies, to hold national and provincial-level consultations on the draft policy, and help to draft a national policy statement and implementation plan.

Micronesia (Federated States of): (a) to follow-up on a range of outstanding issues such as the national plan of action on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to provide advice on the development of an implementation strategy for the Biwako Millennium Framework, to provide technical assistance to the newly formed working committee on human trafficking and different forms of exploitation of children; (b) to provide assistance in the development of a national policy statement and action plan based on the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, and to confirm arrangements for undertaking a situation analysis on child sexual abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and (c) to assist the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs to hold a disability consultation workshop on Kosrae Island, to hold a workshop on national disability consultation in Pohnpei in order to obtain agreement on the final draft of the country's disability policy, and to complete a final draft disability policy and submit it to the Department.

Tonga, to review secondary social and economic data, hold village-level consultations on development priorities and help to draft a strategic development plan.

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan; American Samoa; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; French Polynesia; Georgia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Korea; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa; Cook Islands; French Polynesia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; New Caledonia; Niue; and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized

agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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